

Hafa Adai!

CNMI visitor arrivals up 189% in March. PAGE 2

3 MHS juniors enlist in Guam Guard's 'split ops' training. PAGE 5

\$1

Saipan Tribune



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VISITING DANCE GROUP

Sofia-6, a Bulgarian folk dance ensemble, performs during Fiesta Friday at the NMI Museum grounds in Garapan on Friday as part of a series of appearance the group will take part in their visit to the CNMI. They are on Saipan to help celebrate the Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc.'s 20th anniversary. The group arrived on Saipan last Thursday and will depart this Wednesday, April 26, for Guam. They will be performing at the Mariana Islands International Dance & Art Festival in Guam, which will take place on April 27 to 30.

CHRISTAL MARINO

72-hour work schedule starts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Starting today, Monday, the 72-hour work schedule of some Executive Branch employees will start and last until Sept. 30, 2023—the end of fiscal year 2023.

» Palacios, OAG, Finance, OMB still reviewing budget revision bill

The Office of the Governor confirmed that the austerity measure will push through

See WORK on Page 4

CPA asks DOD to back its DOT supplemental funding request

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has asked the U.S. Department of Defense to back its recent request to the U.S. Department of Transportation for \$30 million in supplemental funding for the next two fiscal years.



Aquilino

The CPA administration
See DOD on Page 4



ECLIPSE CHASERS

From left, Megan Barnes, Stephanie Dela Cruz, and Kristin Hofschneider catch a glimpse of the partial solar eclipse through their eclipse glasses last Thursday in front of the Hafabean coffee shop on Middle Road.

LEIGH GASES

'Other gov't agencies also got disconnection notices'

» CUC, CHCC, administration working on mutual agreement to resolve CHCC's \$53.6M arrears

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
159

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's not just the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Department of Public Works that received disconnection notices. Several other government agencies have also re-



Peavey Jr.

ceived disconnection notices due to unpaid power and water services.

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. disclosed Friday that they are sending disconnection notices not

See GOV'T on Page 4

Fitch affirms 'B+' rating of CNMI airport revs; outlook stable

Credit rating agency Fitch Ratings has affirmed the 'B+' rating on Com-

monwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands'

approximately \$5.9 million of outstanding senior series 1998A airport

revenue bonds. The rating outlook is stable.

The rating reflects a small air traffic base with risk of elevated volatility tied to the

See FITCH on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Due to insistent demand BAB Korean Restaurant is bringing back its popular dinner buffet.

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WORLD

U.S. special operations forces carried out an evacuation of the American embassy in Sudan.

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LIFE & STYLE

Workers carrying a pregnant woman through Mariupol wins the World Press Photo of the Year.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' WEEK



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Local

Arrivals up 189% in March

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota grew 189% to 12,005 visitors in March 2023, compared to 4,155 visitors received in March 2022.

Overall, visitor arrivals in the Marianas are 58% lower year-to-date compared to fiscal year 2019 before the pandemic. However, year-to-date arrivals this fiscal year have already exceed the total number of visitors received last fiscal year, indicating a continued upward tick in arrivals.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea reached 9,356 compared to 2,832 in March last year. Arrivals dipped compared to the first two months of this year as full-service carrier Asiana Airlines suspended flights from Seoul to Saipan on March 4. However, the airline will resume four flights a week beginning on April 27, becoming daily in July through Aug. 23. Jeju Air and T'Way also operate flights from Seoul. Overall, by the end of fiscal year 2023 the number of available air seats from Korea is projected to be restored to 80% of the number available before the pandemic.

The Marianas received 471 visitors from Japan in March 2023 compared to 15 visitors

in March 2022. While recovering this market is a priority, the MVA was delayed in rolling out promotions as it had to identify a new funding source for upcoming programs. The MVA continues to face the obstacles of a strong U.S. dollar and a Japan national travel discount program that offers up to 20% discount to encourage domestic—rather than outbound—travel. On April 5 the MVA held its annual Marianas Seminar & Webinar in Tokyo to meet personally with travel agents, media, and other travel partners, and bookings are picking up in April. The Japan Association of Travel Agents is planning to roll out its overseas travel promotion plan in May, and MVA has extended its “Marianacation” promotion through August.

China, which rivalled South Korea as a top source market of the Marianas prior to the pandemic, marked only 58 visitors. Due to geopolitical concerns with the China market, at this time the MVA is anticipating to determine the feasibility of opening new source markets. In March the Marianas also received 934 visitors from the U.S., 890 visitors from Guam, and a combined 296 visitors from all other markets. (MVA)

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www.dps.gov.mp

CPA tells DOT its operating income is now negative

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the twin shocks of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and the COVID-19 pandemic soon after, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has experienced a

significant loss of income and needs federal aid in order to ensure the continued operations for all three CNMI airports.

This was the key message of CPA in a letter it recently sent the U.S. Department of Transportation explaining

why they are in dire need of supplemental funding.

"CPA experienced a decline in operating and net income. In 2017, operating income peaked at \$13.7 million. After the twin shocks of Super Typhoon Yutu and COVID-19, operating in-

come is now negative with over \$5.2 million in operating loss in 2021," states part of the letter.

CPA stated that declining revenue is occurring at all ports within the CNMI, but it is best exemplified by the performance of the Francisco

C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, which accounts for nearly all of CPA's revenue.

"Between [fiscal year] 2013 and [fiscal year] 2021, an average of 66% of aeronautic revenue came from terminal arrival fees, rents, and utilities. Income from these sources was relatively stable between [fiscal years] 2013 and 2016. In [fiscal year] 2019, this income had a severe drop of \$2 million due to the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu. In [fiscal year] 2020, it dropped by another \$2.9 mil-

lion because tourism was completely shut down due to COVID-19. And in [fiscal year] 2021, it dropped even further by another \$2.5 million as our borders remained closed and our only revenue source, tourism, was at a snail pace recovery. CPA revenues are highly tied to passenger demand for air travel to Saipan, and the timing of these decreases shows that Super Typhoon Yutu and the

See CPA on Page 4

Kilili pushes for Essential Air Service eligibility to include CNMI

» **Bill also introduced to give NMC extra USDA funding**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) is pushing for the expansion of Essential Air Service eligibility to include the CNMI, especially Tinian and Rota.

Sablan also introduced Thursday a bill that would give



Sablan

Northern Marianas College extra funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under the terms of Sa-

blan's H. R. 2783, or the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution Opportunity Act, other AANAPISIs would also receive the extra funding.

Sablan stated in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend

that inclusion of the Marianas in the EAS was his primary request during a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives

See KILILI on Page 4

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OAG charges Senate president's daughter with assault

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division has filed assault charges against the daughter of Senate president Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and former Depart-

ment of Public Safety commissioner Ray Mafnas.

Assistant attorney general Frances Demapan filed multiple charges last week against Nanami DLG Mafnas, 26, at the Superior Court, including assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

According to the information filed, Mafnas faces a maximum imprisonment sentence of one year, a \$1,000 fine, or both for the assault charge.

According to the information Demapan filed in court, Mafnas grabbed the victim by her braided hair, pulled

her out of the vehicle, and hit her face and body on or about March 18, 2023, on Saipan.

The charge of disturbing the peace arose from the same incident. The court information states that Mafnas physically assaulted the victim, causing her to feel scared to leave home. Mafnas faces a maximum imprisonment sentence of six months and a \$500 fine if found guilty.

The Superior Court issued an arrest warrant for Mafnas last April 6, with bail set at \$5,000. Mafnas posted bail last April 7.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mafnas, who remains out of Department of Corrections custody pending further court proceeding, has been ordered to appear before Superior court presiding judge Roberto Naraja to be arraigned today, April 24.

GOV'T

From Page 1

only to CHCC and DPW, but also to all accounts that are in arrears.

This developed as Peavey also revealed in an interview that he, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, and others met last Tuesday to come up with a mutual agreement to resolve CHCC's unpaid power and water services amounting to \$53.6 million.

The CUC board of directors met Friday morning and on the agenda was the CHCC and CNMI government's payment agreement for CHCC's utility services, but the board discussed it in an executive session.

In an interview with the media shortly before the executive session, Peavey stated that they are mandated by law and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to collect arrears until it's been set as receivables.

"It's a mandate by the EPA that we must collect to be able to fund our operations and maintenance. And so that's what we've done to go out try to make the collections," he said.

When asked which agencies and how many agencies owe CUC for utility services, Peavey said he does not have the listing in front of him but that each one is getting a disconnection notice. "Those who haven't gotten it will get it today [Friday]," he said.

Peavey said they absolutely want

to settle with CHCC and that Palacios was "very kind" to sit for two and a half hours during their meeting with CHCC last Wednesday.

"So we want to come to some kind of mutual agreement that is beneficial to all the parties," he said.

Peavey said they never want to disconnect anybody, but in the case with CHCC and DPW, they have no choice as they are mandated by the federal government.

Peavey issued notices of disconnection to CHCC and DPW last Wednesday afternoon due to unpaid power and water services amounting to \$53.6 million and \$1.2 million as of March 31, 2023.

In his demand for payment, Peavey informed CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña and

acting DPW secretary Ray N. Yumul that service will be terminated on May 4, 2023—14 days from the date of the notice—if payment or settlement is not made.

Peavey said the continued delinquent status of CHCC and DPW has adversely impacted CUC's ability to provide reliable uninterrupted services to the community and adds

to CUC's already struggling financial health.

Yumul earlier stated that DPW has always promptly processed payment requests with the Department of Finance when DPW receives its utility bill from CUC.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comment from Muña.

FITCH

From Page 1

islands' limited economy. Manageable capital needs coupled with robust balance sheet liquidity in excess of debt outstanding further support the rating. Additionally, the authority maintains insurance coverage and strong cash reserves and unrestricted liquidity that more than meet debt service requirements. In addition, Fitch recognizes the relatively low debt resulting in negative leverage throughout the forecast period. Federal relief funds and the use of full passenger facility charge (PFC) collections provide sufficient cash flow to cover debt service and operations over the next year, despite continued depressed enplanement levels. While traffic improvement remains below

peers, immediate financial pressures are mitigated by the airport's robust liquidity position.

KEY RATING DRIVERS

Revenue Risk - Volume - Weaker Highly Volatile Enplanement Base

The airport system is an essential enterprise, serving as the gateway to and within the Mariana Islands. The system serves a small, pre-pandemic enplanement base of over 700k passengers in fiscal 2018, reflecting the island's overall population and the more limited, weaker economy. Traffic performance is potentially vulnerable to underlying economic stresses given the significant component of traffic tied to the tourism industry and service offerings are limited.

Revenue Risk - Price - Weaker

Limited Pricing Power

The authority operates under rates by ordinance. The rate methodology for air carriers operating at CPA airports is based on space usage and requires that rates be calculated annually, utilizing the next fiscal year budget. If CPA determines that airport revenues are insufficient to cover operations, the authority may increase fees and charges to an amount sufficient to meet all obligations. This enhanced pricing power allows for greater financial flexibility under an adverse operating environment. Successful implementation of the rate methodology in the coming years, demonstrating the expected stronger cost recovery, may warrant a higher price risk score for the airport.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DOD

From Page 1

sent Friday a letter asking Adm. John Christopher Aquilino, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, to support its request to DOT.

CPA stated in the letter that, as part of the CNMI community, CPA shares DOD's goal in ensuring the nation's security and CPA needs funding in order for the agency to be able to do its part. Therefore,

CPA said, it is asking DOD to support their supplemental funding request with the DOT.

"As Americans and as a community whose strategic location is vital to our nation's security, we share the common goal and belief that we must all rise to the challenge of ensuring a safe and free U.S. Indo-Pacific. Vital to these efforts is ensuring that the CNMI's ports remain both operational and self-sustainable. Airports need passenger arrivals to generate revenue.

In the absence of an alternative industry or new tourism markets to replace Chinese tourists, the Commonwealth Ports Authority needs supplemental operational funds to not only remain self-sustainable, but to ensure that our ports remain open and ready to support the Department of Defense's initiatives in the region," the letter stated.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

WORK

From Page 1

even if Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has yet to sign into law a bill to revise the budget and appropriations law for the government's operations for fiscal year 2023.

Under Palacios' directive, Executive Branch departments, offices, and activities will shut down every other Monday following today, April 24.

Those affected are employees

who are under the Executive Branch whose personnel costs were funded in whole or in part by federal American Rescue Plan Act funds or local revenues. The cut does not affect emergency workers or those involved in healthcare, public safety, and emergency responders.

The reduction in work hours does not apply to federally-funded programs and functions of the government, or to CNMI government employees who are funded 100% by other federal funding sources, whose

federally funded salaries require a local match.

As for the budget revision bill, the Office of the Governor said yesterday that the legislation is being still reviewed by Palacios, the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Finance, and the Office of Management and Budget.

The Legislature passed last Wednesday during separate emergency sessions a bill to revise the budget and appropriations law for fiscal year 2023.

CPA

From Page 3

COVID-19 pandemic are its driving forces," said CPA.

CPA is asking DOT for \$30 million for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to keep CNMI airports afloat until fiscal year 2026.

Yutu devastated Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 24, 2018. A year after, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reported that Saipan and Tinian were slowly but steadily recovering.

Although hundreds of residents still lived in makeshift tents, power and water were mostly restored and tourism was on an uptick once again.

Unfortunately, five months later, the CNMI, like the rest of the world, was shut down due to COVID-19.

Due to these dual events, the CNMI's economic outlook is dire, CPA said.

the incident, they reportedly observed that the victim's right eye had a dark discoloration like a bruise and the white inner corner of her right eye had red spot like blood. Police also observed a scratch and a bruise on the woman's chin and inner right arm. There were also red marks on the right side of her neck, and on top of her head, police said.

KILILI

From Page 3

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The EAS program subsidizes airlines to guarantee scheduled air service to smaller communities and was begun after airline deregulation in 1978.

Sablal said Marianas communities were originally eligible, but lost their eligibility when the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 was enacted.

He said the change that he requested will not automatically place Marianas airports in the program, but it will ensure that EAS assistance is available if needed.

Authorizations for FAA programs expire on Sept. 30, 2023.

Sablal said his testimony is part of the effort to restore Marianas EAS eligibility as Congress develops reauthorizing legislation.

"It will not be easy," he said, as

The complaint against Tammy stated that he had wakened his girlfriend on Saturday afternoon by slapping her shoulder, as she lay asleep with her two toddlers.

The girlfriend told police that Tammy had read her messages and got upset with the messages she had sent to a male friend. She said she apologized to Tammy, but he pushed her away. Later, she said Tammy hit her head with an iPad.

She said Tammy also punched the right side of her face, making her feel like she was going to pass out. She said Tammy used both his hands to grab her hair and pulled her head from side to side.

The victim said Tammy would calm down, but then would get riled up again.

The victim told police that Tammy tried to strangle her five times. She claims Tammy's hands were wrapped around her neck as he pushed her against the wall, making it difficult for her to breathe.

Tammy also allegedly pulled the victim's hair, grabbed both her arms, and threw her on the bed.

Later, when she had the opportunity to get out of the bedroom, she called for police assistance. She said Tammy apologized because he did not want to get arrested.

he noted that critics characterize essential air service subsidies as expensive and wasteful, and that many in Congress are determined to roll back spending.

On H.R. 2783, the legislation proposes to establish grants to support Asian American and Pacific Islander-centered agricultural research and scholarships for AAPI students.

Currently, AANPASIs are the only minority-serving institutions without the USDA support, Sablan said, adding that H.R. 2783 seeks to correct that inequity.

In addition to investing in the AAPI agricultural pipeline, Sablan said the bill would enhance the potential of Marianas agriculture by giving NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service the necessary resources to establish more degrees, classes, and research projects.

Sablal said he looks forward to working with his colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee to advance this measure through Congress.

3 MHS juniors enlist in National Guard's 'split ops' training



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School juniors Phil Sai Gases, third from left; Eitmam Chowdhury, fourth from right; and Joshua Jacela, second from right, are the first high school students from Saipan to enlist in the Guam Army National Guard's split training option. They were sworn in last April 13 at the Guam Army National Guard Readiness Center in Barrigada and were joined by their family members. The oath was administered by LTC Stephen Warren, right, and was joined by SFC Jonathan Peñaflor, left.

By **LEIGH GASES**

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

BARRIGADA, Guam—Three 17-year-old juniors from Marianas High School are the first students from Saipan to have enlisted in the Guam Army National Guard's split training option.

Classmates Phil Sai Gases, Eitmam Chowdhury, and Joshua Jacela took their oath last April 13 at the Guam Army National Guard Readiness Center in Barrigada and were joined by their family

members. The oath was administered by LTC Stephen Warren and they were joined by SFC Jonathan Peñaflor.

In this split training option—or “split ops” for short—it allows students 17-years-old (with permissions from parents/guardians) to enlist in the National Guard. They will finish their junior year, then attend Basic Combat Training during the summer before their senior year.

On their return for their senior year, they will train one weekend a month, then after

their high school graduation, they will attend Advanced Individual Training and train for their National Guard job.

Gases, who is enlisted as an 11B or infantryman, said he joined because he wants to better himself and prepare for the responsibilities of adulthood, as well as to take advantage of the benefits of the army and the early jumpstart in his career. “Honestly, I’m looking forward to serving my country on top of bettering myself as a person,” he said.

Chowdhury, who enlisted

as a 92G or culinary specialist, said, “I joined the Army mostly because I wanted to go to college and make my parents proud. I also wanted to ensure my future, get all the benefits of being in the Army, and do all the hard work now so that when I’m an adult, everything will be simple.”

He added that on the day of his enlistment, “I felt many different things that day. I think I was mostly nervous because I was actually taking an oath to serve in the Army and because I’m getting more and more responsibilities in my life. As

of right now, I’m looking forward to finishing basic training and getting good grades in my junior and senior years of high school.”

Jacela, also a 92G, said he is looking forward to the new experiences the Army can give him. “The reason for my enlistment was to better myself and for my future. I heard about this through a friend and from the JROTC [Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps] program [at] MHS. At first it felt very intense at the beginning of the ceremony but after we swore in, I felt really good

about myself,” he said.

Their recruiter, SSG Doris Parr, said, “I am just honored and truly proud to have been able to assist them in the process, knowing and being part of the process of them taking that big step into something that will not only benefit them now but in the future as our next greatest generation for our island and country! I am not just here for the start but to see them through all the way!”

For those interested in joining or for more information, contact Parr at (671)929-7320.



HOPWOOD HONORS ITS ADMIN PROFESSIONALS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Administrative Professionals Week is celebrated annually every last full week of April. This year it will be observed from April 23, 2023, to April 29, 2023. This week is dedicated to recognizing and applauding the brilliant work of administrative personnel: receptionists, secretaries, administrative assistants, executive assistants, personal assistants, customer support, among other administrative support professionals. Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful, hardworking administrative professionals—Ronald Gabionza, Ruby Hocog, and Femie Rey—for their dedication and administrative support.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

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NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting all individuals, firms, and recycling centers to open public auctions of CPA's surplus equipment and materials. The list of surplus equipment and materials is available beginning April 14, 2023, for pick-up at the CPA Office of the Executive Director, which is located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Building, 2nd floor, or via email upon request.

Item Inspection: All items will be available for inspection beginning April 17, 2023, to May 12, 2023, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, business days only. Items located on Saipan may be inspected by contacting Mr. Santiago Camacho at the telephone number (670) 237-6500 Ext. 127.

Auction Locations, Dates, and Times: The auctions will take place at the following locations, dates, and times:

Saipan: CPA Hazmat Bunker, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on May 17, 2023, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Terms and Conditions: All bidders submitting the highest itemized bid are required to pay a 20% down payment on acceptance of a bid. The balance shall be payable at CPA's Accounting Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, within five (5) business days from the date of the Public Auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check, credit card, or money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All items are sold “AS IS” and “WHERE IS” and without warranty, guarantee, or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. Items offered for sale are used and may contain defects not immediately detectable.

All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from the date of payment, at the owner's expense. CPA will not be responsible for the said property after said specified time. The Buyer will make all arrangements and perform all work necessary, including packing, loading, and transportation of the property. No assistance will be provided. Upon removal of the property, all sales are final.

Any claim for a misdescription of the purchased item must be made prior to the removal of the property. If CPA confirms that the property does not conform to the description, CPA will keep the property and refund any money paid. The liability of the CPA shall not exceed the actual purchase price of the property.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted for any reason set forth in this Public Auction Notice or as set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, including bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the Public Auction.

CPA assumes no liability for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids. Inquiries may be directed to the CPA Procurement Officer, Alex Tudela, via email at atudela@cnmiports.com.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



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Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE SAIPAN CAMPUS & FACILITIES PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2023-0005 – The Northern Marianas College (NMC) is proposing to construct and enhance the Northern Marianas College Saipan Campus and Facilities on Tract No. 21699 in As Terlaje, Saipan. The property contains an area of about 66,385 square meters or 6.63 hectares, more or less. The project will be completed in seven (7) phases beginning with the Student Center Building. The Student Center building is a 2-story building consisting of a library and services, student dining, financial aid office, testing center, CNMI archives, project PROA tutoring and mentoring, student success and early intervention, ASNMC office/club space, student activities and leadership, event spaces, international student center, disability support services.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315>. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the construction and enhancement of the Northern Marianas College Saipan Campus and Facilities project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

DPS denies rumor about officer being arrested

The Department of Public Safety has issued an official statement shooting down rumors that one of its own detectives was arrested yesterday.

A video that circulated in social media showed a DPS

officer in civilian attire getting arrested in San Antonio, but Fred Sato, the department's spokesperson, told media partners yesterday that the video was taken while DPS K9 units were conducting an exercise

and the officer was playing the role of a suspect.

"The Department of Public Safety, K-9 Unit, [was] conducting in-service training [yesterday], April 20. With this, we would like to inform

the general public that no officer is being formally charged or arrested for any crimes. The video circulating on social media is that of a plainclothes detective playing the role of a suspect in the training," he said.

During last year's celebra-

tion of National Police Week, the CNMI Department of Public Safety unveiled its new K9 Unit facility. The facility is equipped with seven individual kennels for each K9, a shower room, a storage room, a conference room, and a secured backyard that is easily accessible through a small

door behind each kennel.

The K9s currently serve as attack dogs as well as tracking dogs to further aid the CNMI's police officers apprehend suspects.

Currently five dogs are stationed on Saipan while two are stationed on Tinian and Rota. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

Woman files Superior Court appeal claiming Labor 'improperly' took back her PUA funds

A woman has filed an administrative appeal with the Superior Court against the CNMI Department of Labor for allegedly "improperly" taking back Pandemic Unemployment Assistance funds that had been transmitted to her bank account.

Jennifer Angello, a woman

who was allegedly found eligible for PUA and then disqualified without explanation, has filed an administrative appeal with the Superior Court against DOL.

According to her appeal, Angello was initially found eligible for PUA benefits on

Jan. 4, 2021, but was later disqualified without explanation.

"After four months of no benefits or explanations, the Department of Labor disqualified petitioner on June 11, 2021," she said.

Angello said DOL first transmitted PUA funds to her account on May 28, 2021, before she was disqualified, and then "improperly" took the money back.

"Although unbeknownst to petitioner, DOL transmitted PUA benefits into her FHB bank account on May 28, 2021 and then without any notification or hearing the DOL improperly took back petitioner's PUA benefits five days later and even denied her the qualified benefit of the federal program mandate of waiver of recovery of PUA overpayments," her appeal claims.

Angello further stated that DOL's Benefits Control Program provided only a

one-sentence email message for evidence of reason to remove funds from her bank "without providing any explanation that they followed federal mandates in their improperly removing of petitioner's bank funds."

In closing, Angello said there were multiple legal errors made in her case, such as "legal errors in the interpretation and application of Hawaiian statutes and Hawaiian Administrative Rules that govern the appeals of PUA claimants in the CNMI, which was mandated by the CARES Act of 2020. Legal errors in the interpretation and application of U.S. Labor regulations and rules (UIPL advisories) governing the management of the CNMI PUA program. [And] legal errors in the interpretation and application of banking regulations concerning direct deposits," she said. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

McDonald's donates \$3K to all-schools athletics tilt

McDonald's of Saipan becomes the major sponsor for PSS-McDonald's All Schools Athletics Competition (track and field), with a donation of \$3,000 to Northern Marianas Athletics, a nonprofit organization.

Public and private schools across the CNMI will compete in different track and field events in their age division. Trials started on March 28, 2023, and ended this past weekend, April 22, 2023, leading up to the championships.

Elementary school championships are on April 28 and 29, 2023. Middle and high school championships are on May 5, 2023 and May 6, 2023.

McDonald's is proud to support a great program that cares about students and their well-being, both physically and mentally.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, owned by Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. **(PR)**



From left, Robin Sapong, Northern Marianas Athletics secretary; Marica Erra Ayuyu, vice president and owner/operator of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan; and Ramon Tebuteb, Northern Marianas Athletics president.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport's backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, April 21, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2023

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Retail Concession"

CPA-RFP-005-23

for:

CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PERFORM A DESK AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby requests proposals from qualified and experienced firm(s) to provide professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA executive staff and board of the directors. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All applicants shall pay the reasonable administrative fee of \$50.00 to receive a copy of the proposal.

CPA will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023, to explain CPA's RFP objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held in the CPA Meeting Room located on the 1st Floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (next to the Bank of Guam ATM machine). Attendance by potential applicants is encouraged but not mandated.

Questions and/or clarification regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Ms. Lorna Robert via email at cpadmin@pticom.com, hand delivery, U.S. postal service mail or facsimile transmission to 670-234-5962 on or before April 28, 2023.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as "RFP for professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA Executive Staff and CPA Board of Directors, Project No. CPA-RFP-009-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. CHST, May 11, 2023, to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

USCIS guidance on citizenship, naturalization for adopted kids

ed States and how to obtain a Certificate of Citizenship;

■ Explains eligibility for U.S. citizenship for adopted children who reside outside of the United States and how to apply for citizenship and issuance of a certificate; and

■ Provides guidance on the acquisition of citizenship and naturalization when an adoption is disrupted or dissolved.

The updated guidance does not change the requirements for adopted children to become U.S. citizens. We are updating this guidance to help adoptive families and adoptees understand these requirements so adoptees may secure U.S. citizenship and documentation of their citizenship, if they are eligible and choose to do so.

Under U.S. laws, children may obtain U.S. citizenship

other than through birth in the United States. In general, persons born outside of the United States, including adopted children, may obtain U.S. citizenship after birth, before the age of 18, through a U.S. citizen parent.

Some children immigrating based on adoption automatically acquire U.S. citizenship when they are admitted to the United States as lawful permanent residents. Others do not, and their adoptive parents need to take additional steps before an adopted child turns 18 for the child to obtain U.S. citizenship through an adoptive parent. Adoptees who do not obtain citizenship through their adoptive parents before age 18 may be eligible to apply for naturalization after the age of 18. **(USCIS)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jury selection on May 1 is cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "23AS" that the jury selection scheduled for May 1, 2023, at 8:30am is cancelled until further notice. For more information, contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at (670) 236-9783 or (670) 783-8522. **(PR)**

Friends of JKPL sets 2nd 5K fun run

Join the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for their

2nd Annual 5K on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 5pm.

Online registration through racerooster is required. All proceeds will go to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 2023 Collaborative Summer Library Program for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The cost to participate is \$10 for participants 13 years old and above. No refunds.

Donations are accepted as well. Contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at (670) 235-7318 for more information. **(PR)**

WSR Elementary students engage in tourism topics

Fourth and fifth graders at William S. Reyes Elementary School engaged with tourism topics presented by the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority last April 11, 2023, at their school.

MTEC board member Glenn Policare of Kanoa Resort Saipan gave an overview of the Marianas' primary economic driver, how it impacts their lives, and ways students can support tourism even while still in school.

"It was amazing, during the presentation, for all of the students to be calling out the names of the sites which were highlighted during the MVA video," said Policare. "The kids at W.S.R. sure do know their islands!"

MVA community projects specialist Jack Aranda shared about the work of the various divisions of the MVA, including marketing activities and upcoming community projects such as May Tourism Month and the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in June.

"We're almost done with 2022-23 MTEC/MVA Educational Outreach program. The students are able to learn about their own experiences with the tourism industry," added MTEC acting chairwoman Vicky Benavente, who opened and closed the presentation. "I'm looking forward to seeing the results from this program, especially as the kids grow older and develop their skills in whatever field they choose."

MTEC and the MVA aim to visit all public schools each school year with the message, "Tourism is Everybody's Business." The MTEC presentation includes information on the number visitor arrivals, source markets, travel motivations, the benefits of tourism, careers in travel and tourism, and ideas on how students can engage with tourism.

Other MTEC board members are Martin Duenas (MVA), Dr. Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Catherine Perry



Marianas Tourism Education Council board member Glenn Policare engages students of William S. Reyes Elementary School at the educational outreach presentation of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority on April 11, 2023, at the school on Saipan.

MTEC



Fourth and fifth graders of William S. Reyes Elementary School welcome Marianas Tourism Education Council acting chairwoman Vicky Benavente, left in blue, and other representatives of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority to their schools on April 11, 2023.

MTEC



Tourism turners—a rebranding of the common fidget spinner—are used by the Marianas Tourism Education Council and the Marianas Visitors Authority to help students remember the tourism message presented on April 11, 2023, at the school.

MTEC



A student of William S. Reyes Elementary School flashes a friendly "hang loose" sign at the educational outreach presentation of Marianas Tourism Education Council and the Marianas Visitors Authority on April 11, 2023, at the school.

MTEC

(Integrity Communications), Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (PDI), and Dr. Yunzi Zhang (Northern Marianas College School of Business). (MVA)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAMES DEAN :
KALLAS : FCD-DI
Petitioner, : CIVIL ACTION NO.
vs. : 23-0118
KATHERINE :
KAYE CONDE : SUMMONS FOR
DELOS REYES : PUBLICATION
Respondent, :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: KATHERINE KAYE CONDE DELOS REYES YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX 500094 SAIPAN, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmpiports.com



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, second floor of the Captain George M. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes (April 11, 2023)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):
 - 1. Saipan Airport's Explosive Detection System Replacement (EDS) Project Change Order 3 and Supplemental Budget Request
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)
- V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. See link below.

Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

April 21, 2023

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lies landed Fox News in an expensive court settlement. Yet the lies continue

The whole world by now is probably sick of hearing about the Dominion Voting Systems libel lawsuit against Fox News and Tuesday's \$787.5 million settlement. The whole world, that is, minus Fox News viewers, who have heard precious little about the lawsuit and even less about the settlement. The lead-up to the trial was the subject of countless news stories and analyses as the implications for journalism were weighed and multiple examples aired of how Fox presenters colluded behind the scenes to skew their coverage and advance the lie that Dominion had helped rig the 2020 presidential election.

But since the settlement didn't require Fox News to apologize or outline publicly exactly how the network engaged in a systematic campaign of lies, those viewers will probably go on believing the nonsense they've been fed for the past two years.

Howard Kurtz, the network's media reporter, announced the settlement using the vaguest possible terminology. He called it "one of the most heavily covered" defamation cases in history, neglecting to remind viewers that the network had banned him and other Fox presenters from discussing specifics of the trial on air. So viewers might have been surprised to learn of a settlement in a lawsuit they knew little about. Kurtz added to the confusion by claiming that he couldn't independently confirm the amount of the settlement even though it was readily available to any reporter covering the trial or to millions of viewers watching other television networks.

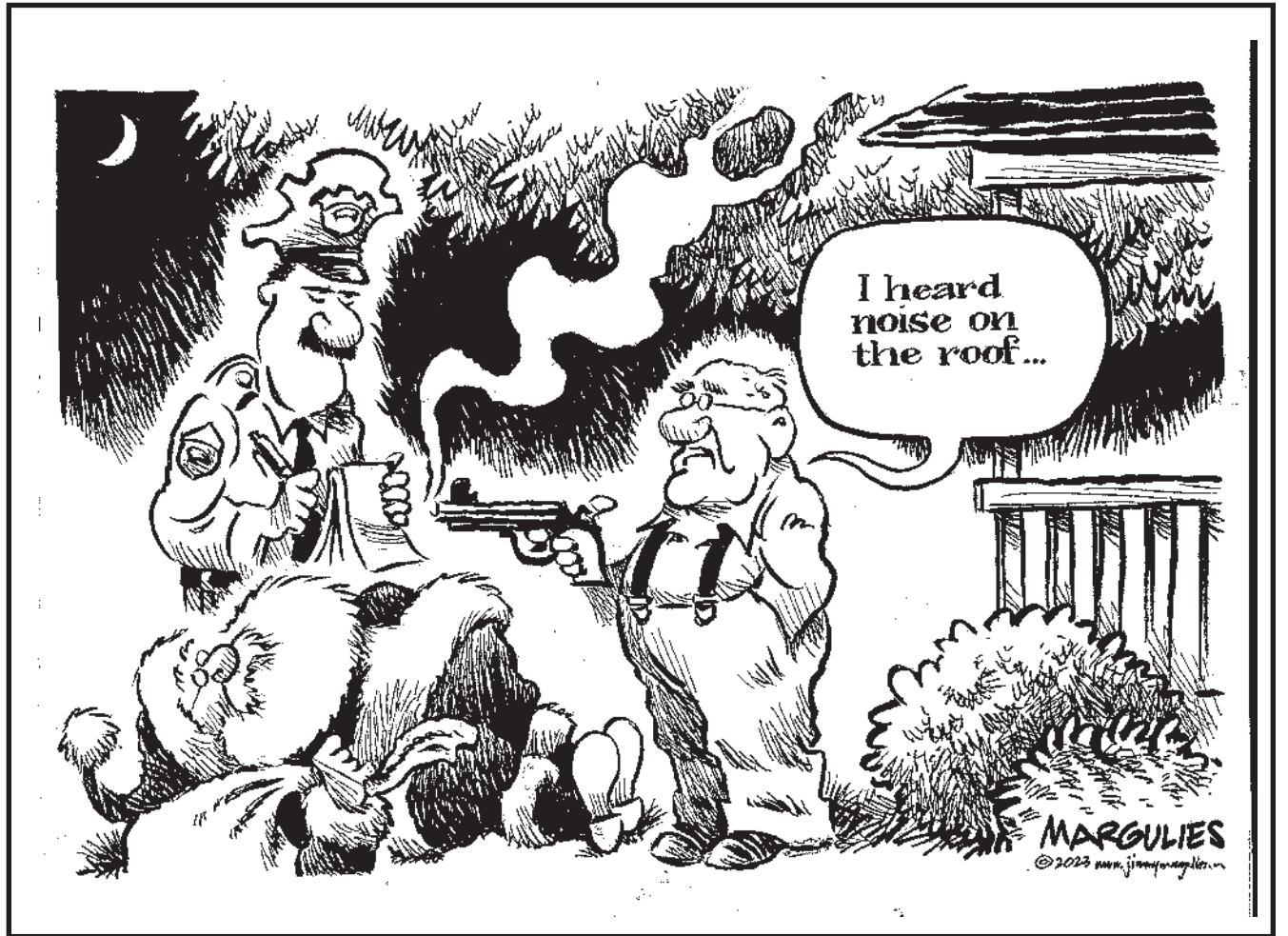
The dollar figure, likely a record, is important because it sends a loud-and-clear message about how fearful Fox was that this case would go to trial, where all of the network's dirtiest secrets and reckless disregard for the truth would be aired publicly. By settling for such a large amount, the network tacitly acknowledged its fear of losing the case. Dominion executives say they agreed to settle because it was better to take this amount, delivered now, than to engage in a dragged-out court case with multiple appeals that likely would have delayed a payout for another two years or more.

Nevertheless, it's frustrating that the terms of the settlement didn't require Fox to tell its viewers in no uncertain terms: We lied. We defamed Dominion. We apologize.

Instead, all Fox was required to say was that "We acknowledge the Court rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false." Kurtz's report also made it sound as Fox's only error was quoting former President Donald Trump and his allies that election fraud deprived him of victory in 2020. "This settlement reflects Fox's continued commitment to the highest journalistic standards," Kurtz said, quoting a network statement.

The end result is that Fox viewers were again denied access to the truth behind Trump's election-fraud lies, only to be lied to again on Tuesday about a "commitment" to journalistic standards that simply do not exist there.

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How do we chart a new course for our kids and prevent violence?

Is there a generational disconnect when it comes to disciplining our children? I am from Generation X, whose members were born from 1965 to 1980. We were admonished by parents, neighbors, teachers and basically any adult who saw us doing something wrong. If we were heard using profanity, an adult would correct us. Even for something as minor as running across a neighbor's lawn, we would hear about it. We then hoped that the adult wouldn't tell our parents, out of fear of being disciplined at home.

If you ask contemporary parents with children younger than 18 how they discipline their children, you likely would not get many similar answers. Some may even take issue with the word "discipline." But ask them if the behavior of our youths is getting better? I would venture to say that most would respond with a resounding, "No." We've all grown weary and frustrated with what is being exhibited by far too many of today's youths.

Every 24 hours, about 14 youths ages 10 to 24 die from homicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Each day, almost 1,300 youths are treated in emergency departments for violence-related injuries.

Recently in Chicago, large groups of teenagers came downtown and harassed citizens, vandalized cars and engaged in fighting, and some allegedly were involved in a shooting incident. And then there is the upsetting trend of carjackings, which are often committed by juveniles ranging in age from 15 to 20. Some offenders are as young as 10 or 11 years old, reporting shows.

Youth violence occurs among all racial and social economic groups. It is a national health crisis, the CDC says. It costs an estimated \$100 billion annually in medical services and lost productivity to address youth homicides and injuries.

Is a lack of discipline partly behind our youths' violence and egregious behavior? If so, how do we effectively discipline our youths? How do we teach them that they are responsible for their actions?

Adults have a major role to play. We must return to the days when youths respected their elders, adults could correct a child for inappropriate behavior and giving out consequences was not frowned upon. An African proverb says, "One should punish a child the first time he comes home with a stolen egg. Otherwise, the day he returns home with a stolen ox, it may be too late."

While it's never too late for a person to turn around his or her life, it can be too late for cities, states and families that have been devastated by violence.

By **JERALD MCNAIR**

Chicago Tribune

Jerald McNair has a doctorate in education and a graduate degree in public policy. He is a school administrator in South Holland School District 151.



How can we chart a new course for our youths? Let's begin with keeping our expectations high and demanding that they follow rules. This is not an abuse of authority. It simply prepares them for success in life. Also, holding youths accountable when they do wrong is not only necessary but also is our responsibility as members of a civil society.

In far too many situations, we confuse discipline with abuse. Effective and necessary discipline is not abuse, and it doesn't equate to physical punishment. Limiting discipline to that definition does a huge disservice to our youths and the rest of us. We all lament child abuse and the impact it has on minors. It is linked to drug abuse, mental illness and chronic health problems.

However, disciplining youths is necessary. To fail to act, to not give children boundaries, is devastating to their development. It is difficult to watch our youths exhibit the kind of behavior that requires the intervention of law enforcement, such as shootings, vandalism, harassment and assault. It's necessary for parents, clerics, educators, law enforcement officers and policymakers, to name a few, to vehemently speak out against this.

Maybe it's time to march to send a message to our youths. We also may need public service announcements on social media platforms, the radio and television to make clear that we reject behavior that could land our youths in jail or cost them their lives.

Lastly, we must invest in our youth by expanding opportunities for them during and after high school, which may include promotion of vocational trades. Also, some form of community service should be considered.

South African leader and activist Nelson Mandela once said, "If we want any significant development, we must co-opt a civil society." In other words, all of us have to behave with civility for our communities to prosper. It's vital that cities and states across the country collaborate on this matter, as summer approaches.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fox News and the prison of profit

I am not a Fox News fan, so I was curious what the conservative media company's viewers made of this week's massive \$787.5 million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems over broadcasting lies that the 2020 presidential election had been stolen.

On Monday, I reached out to some of the conservatives who had responded to a Twitter survey I sent out in 2019 asking how they thought I should cover the upcoming election. Given that they were interested enough at the time to tell me how they thought I should do my job for the L.A. Times back then, I was curious about how they interpreted Fox News' decision to settle with Dominion.

I was surprised at a couple of the responses I got back.

"I am much less of a Fox News viewer now than when you sent the survey [in 2019] for the specific reason that whereas they had set the agenda for Republicans—politicians took cues from their narratives and topics—now it's the opposite," one conservative wrote back to me in an email. "What the lawsuit showed through discovery is that the network no longer controls the narrative. Instead it's driven by the base of the party and rather than dictate terms of the political agenda the network is simply following the party's base."

Another Fox News viewer wrote back to me with a similar rebuke for the channel: "Yes, it has affected my view of FOX. Negatively. FOX has enough money to fight a court case. Instead, they chose to settle. To me that means they felt there was a significant possibility they would lose in court once the facts of the case were litigated. Unfortunately I am now persuaded that I can trust NONE of the mainstream media. It seems they are all interested in only one thing—views. Views translate to income through advertising. They will get views at any cost, including untruthful reporting."

There's nothing more tantalizing to a journalist than apostates. But what also interested me in both of these responses was how they played off and inverted a classic left-wing criticism of for-profit media. It's worth exploring to understand what, exactly, just happened at Fox News.

Here goes: The mass media serve a bamboozling role on behalf of a powerful, controlling elite in the "propaganda model" theory given by Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky in their 1988 book "Manufacturing Consent." "Money and power are able to filter out the news fit to print, marginalize dissent, and allow the government and dominant private interests to get their messages across to the public," they write. In this telling, journalists who think they're practicing objectivity are just fooling themselves. It's all just propaganda for the ruling class.

But in the closing days of the Trump administration, the way things actually played out at Fox News—the quintessential profiteering media giant, owned by tycoon Rupert Murdoch and fused at the hip with the ruling Republican Party—was so much simpler. No cabal needed here: Fox News was less afraid of Murdoch or of Trump than its own audience and what might happen if the masses stopped watching. The real boss was the

ratings, the true master the quarterly earnings.

Take what Dominion learned in the trial's discovery process about the supposedly all-powerful Murdoch, one of the world's wealthiest people. Murdoch called Trump's stolen election claims a "myth" and acknowledged that he could have stopped election fibbers like Rudy Giuliani from going on the air and didn't. Yet he was afraid of antagonizing the network's viewers. His son Lachlan, Fox Corp.'s chief executive, said Fox News' ratings kept him up at night.

Or take firebrand host Tucker Carlson, who wrote to fellow hosts Laura Ingraham and Sean Hannity in a text chain about a coworker who tweeted fact-checks of Trump's election lies: "Please get her fired. Seriously ... What the f—? I'm actually shocked... It needs to stop immediately, like tonight. It's measurably hurting the company. The stock price is down. Not a joke."

As the trial loomed, evidence abounded that, apart from some apparent true believers, few of the most powerful people inside Fox News actually believed the president's lies that the election had been stolen. But the source of the profits—the audience—did. This is legally significant, because America's very broad libel protections for journalists don't cover "actual malice," where you say things you either know or have reason to believe aren't true. Fox News still faces formidable legal challenges from voting machine company Smartmatic and its own shareholders.

Smaller competitors Newsmax and One America News, which originally benefited from gaining some far-right viewers dissatisfied even with Fox's coverage of the election, are also still in Dominion and Smartmatic's legal sights over election lies. (Newsmax published a particularly jittery defense of itself after Fox's settlement, stating "that the facts at issue in Dominion's case against it are materially different from those that may have driven Fox to settle, and no conclusion about Newsmax should be drawn from that settlement.")

The scope of the completely avoidable disaster at Fox News revives old questions about who actually wields the power of the media. What's the point of being a massive media company like Fox, a big billionaire like Murdoch or a top TV host like Carlson if you're still too scared to tell the truth when you really need to?

This question brings me back to my estranged Fox News viewers, who understood all too keenly that the network had sold itself out to its own audience—viewers just like them—and they resented it. They came to Fox News because they wanted agenda setting. But the channel, by chasing profits, had become too much of an engine reflecting fractious mass politics instead of elite opinion. This is the inversion of Chomsky.

My second respondent, Chuck Thompson, 79, from the northern Dallas suburb of Addison, told me in a follow-up phone interview that he used to like watching Fox News commentators like Carlson, Greg Gutfeld and "The Five" in clips on YouTube. A self-described conservative indepen-

By **MATT PEARCE**

Los Angeles Times

Matt Pearce is a reporter for the Los Angeles Times covering internet culture and podcasting.



dent who usually votes for Republicans, Thompson knew that what he was getting from Fox News was commentary. But he was watching with the presumption that the opinions he was hearing were being based on solid reporting from elsewhere on the network. Thompson was, in short, expecting intellectual honesty.

"Basically I was of the opinion that the liberal media was just lying all the time because they hated Trump, and that rolled into lying all the time about everything that developed after that—the war in Ukraine, any kind of a scandal that came up," Thompson said. "I had not questioned conservative media in the same way, because I believed what they were saying was more in line with the truth."

But doubts began to creep into his mind when he noticed that, the same way the liberal media didn't seem to think Trump could do any right, conservative media didn't seem to think Trump couldn't do any wrong—which didn't feel right.

Those doubts coalesced this week when Fox News settled the Dominion lawsuit; Thompson said he'd been keeping an open mind about the case and wanted to see how things played out. "That settlement indicated to me that Fox knew they were going to get killed in court, which means they knew they were lying," Thompson said.

Now, instead of just questioning the trustworthiness of liberal media, Thompson told me he now questioned the trustworthiness of all media. And he doesn't know where to go from here. "If you're conservative minded and you don't believe in liberal news, and then suddenly you don't believe in conservative news, you don't have news," he said.

Yet I expect viewers like Thompson are probably in the minority. At the moment, it doesn't seem realistic to expect Fox News to seriously change its ways. The channel could barely bring itself to disclose to viewers the brutal beating it had just taken in the Dominion lawsuit. The company seems to have enough financial reserves to pay out the settlement and then some. Murdoch's media empire is, after all, used to paying lots of big settlements after flouting the law, and it doesn't seem to have been all that bad for business. (Viewers straying over to Newsmax, though—that's bad for business.) When the money spigot stays on, everybody stays paid, the rank and file stays in line. Inside the prison of profit, the meals are hot, the blankets are soft and few tunnel to escape.

Local communities are on the frontlines for climate justice

By **ALVARO SANCHEZ** and **OLATUNJI OBOI REED**
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

While climate change affects us all, its impact on communities of color is particularly severe due to decades of environmental injustice and systemic racism. From higher instances of toxic air pollution to food deserts to the lack of affordable housing, communities of color bear the brunt of climate-related impacts with the least amount of resources to adapt and respond. This is the result of decades of unequal, top-down infrastructure funding—the lingering effects of redlining.

But these communities are not just victims of climate change—they are powerful leaders in the fight against it. When it comes to the existential threat posed by climate change, communities of color are drawing on their deep knowledge of their own neighborhoods and their resilience to build a more sustainable future.

While climate action at the global and national levels is

essential, funding climate projects at the grassroots allows communities to tap into the unique needs, resources and cultures of the people they serve. With the Biden administration's federal investments in climate action and the wave of private capital that's being directed to fund climate initiatives, we must fund community-based climate projects to ensure the communities most in need actually benefit from these investments.

One program, Greenlining the Block, shows just how this can be done. Created by The Greenlining Institute, the program is designed to ensure that communities of color that have historically been excluded from decision-making processes can leverage infrastructure investments in their neighborhoods.

Announced in January, Greenlining the Block is a multi-year initiative to center community voices and connect them with institutional support as they lead their own innovative climate initiatives on the ground. Through the program, Greenlining will work with community-based organizations to provide direct annual grants, capacity building support, technical assistance, and

peer-to-peer learning alongside other partner organizations.

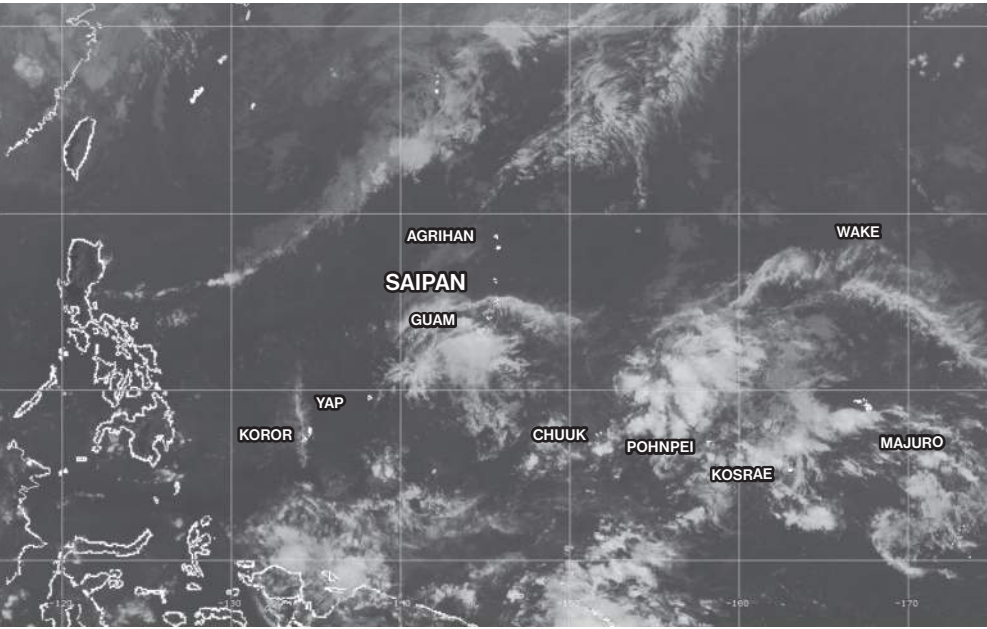
Equitcity, a racial equity movement based in Chicago, is one of the cohort members of Greenlining the Block, and demonstrates the ingenuity of communities of color to address climate change at the grassroots. Equitcity is improving transportation with its project, The Go Hub Community Mobility Center in Chicago's North Lawndale, a predominantly Black neighborhood. The area has long experienced severe transportation issues and suffered dramatic environmental degradation, following years of redlining and pollution.

This April, as we continue to celebrate Earth Month, we call on everyone invested in finding solutions to the climate crisis to support the work of community organizations that are leading the fight against climate change at the neighborhood level. Like a stone thrown into a pond, the effects will ripple outward.

Alvaro Sanchez is the vice president of policy at the Greenlining Institute. Olatunji Oboi Reed is the president and CEO at Equitcity.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny	
85°	77°	84°	78°	85°	77°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show cloudy skies and isolated showers within coastal waters this morning. An altimetry pass at 17z this morning shows seas west of the coastal waters between 3 to 4 feet while buoys in coastal waters show combined seas between 5 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Sunny	86° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:52 AM	10:24 PM	-
Tuesday	9:44 AM	11:18 PM	-
Wednesday	10:37 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:08 AM	11:31 AM
Friday	-	1:36 AM	1:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	63° / 48°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 44°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 73°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 71°	
London	Showers	51° / 35°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 57°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	76° / 56°	
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	83° / 73°	
New York	Showers	67° / 48°	
Osaka	Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Paris	Showers	58° / 44°	
Busan	Cloudy	61° / 56°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	67° / 51°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	74° / 50°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 49°	
Seoul	Cloudy	70° / 51°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 49°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	64° / 41°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:42 AM	Low Tide	1.26	
9:12 AM	High Tide	1.77	
4:46 PM	Low Tide	-0.10	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 24, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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NMI Democrats elect new Central Executive Committee

NMI Democrats gathered in person and online last April 15, 2023, for their general membership meeting, during which they elected a new Central Executive Committee.

Jonathan P. Cabrera, who up until the general membership meeting served as party chair, reflected on the party's recent successes and losses in the general election, and emphasized that in good times and in challenging times, Democrats continue to lead.

"In the words of our party's platform, wherever they are, our Democrats 'are committed to uniting and healing our communities, rebuilding an economy that promotes shared prosperity, and restoring public trust in government,'" Cabrera said.

Buoyed by the excitement in the room, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) moved that all those nominated for election to the CEC be voted in by vocal acclamation, and that is what transpired.

In his brief remarks to the attendees, Sablan urged Democrats to elect more Democrats in the CNMI, and reminded them that, the delegate position "needs to remain in the Democratic Caucus."

He said that members of Congress were working hard to retake the U.S. House of Representatives, increase their majority in the Senate, and re-elect President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Precinct 1 Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), who was present at the meeting, is an ex-officio member of the executive committee. "I will continue to work with all of my colleagues as we do the work of the people," he said. "So long as we stay focused, we can accomplish great things, and I appreciate the leadership and support from Democrats like Kilili and our first governor, Dr. Carlos Camacho."

Precinct 3 Rep. Denita Kai-pat Yangetmai (D-Saipan) ex-

pressed appreciation to the party and to the party's leaders for supporting her re-election bid in the last election. "I'm grateful for the party's support because I now get to continue working for the people of Precinct 3, and I look forward to working with the new executive committee and officers."

Camacho, an ardent Democrat and the first governor of the CNMI, expressed his gratitude for the members of the party who continue to keep the party alive. "We can elect Democrats, but we will need to work hard to get the job done," he added.

Though their duties required their presence at other important community events, Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan), Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan), and Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) sent their congratulations and best wishes to the party and to the new members of the Central Executive Committee.

The newly elected Central Executive Committee will have its first organizational meeting at the end of the

month and will elect party officers at that meeting.

For more information about the NMI Democratic

Party or to register as a Democrat, visit www.nmi-dems.org, or call (670) 484-3367. (PR)

NMC Nursing accepting applications for fall 2023 cohort

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing can apply to become part of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Department's newest cohort in the fall 2023 semester.

Those who meet the program's admission requirements can submit their application beginning today, April 24, 2023, to Monday, May 22, 2023.

The selection of prospective students will be based on the following criteria:

1) GPA of 2.50 or higher, however, GPA of 3.00 will be given first consideration as approved by the nursing faculty at their March 6, 2023 faculty/staff meeting. The proposal to increase the nursing program GPA from 2.50 to 3.00 as one of the admission criteria has been submitted to the Academic Council for review and approval;

2) Completion of all core course requirements with the exception of SO 297 and all nursing general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher;

3) the ability to understand, speak, and write in English

4) a passing score of 70% or higher in all five content areas (writing, math, science, reading, and critical thinking) in the program's admission test. More information about the program's admission test can be found on the NMC website's nursing page.

The number of students selected will also depend on the number of faculty available to teach the class. For the fall 2023 admission cohort, the class size will be limited to 25 students. If there is not enough space for all eligible applicants, a wait list will be established for consider-

ation in the next admission cohort for the fall 2024 semester.

Students are advised to make an appointment with their nursing adviser via email or to visit the Nursing Department as soon as possible to discuss prerequisites and transcripts in order to determine current standing and progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

Final selection of students for the fall 2023 cohort will be completed before the beginning of the fall 2023 semester in August. A notification letter will be sent to each applicant using the address designated on the application. Application forms may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department via email at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu or rosa.alan@marianas.edu. (NMC)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign Friday the proclamation. Palacios and Apatang encourage the community to celebrate the libraries of the Commonwealth and take advantage of the many resources available. They also call upon everyone to recognize and appreciate the contributions of our library workers who do their part in ensuring that information, books, and resources are made more accessible to everyone in the community."

'Moments with Mom' photo competition underway

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As the celebration of Mother's Day nears, TanHoldings Corp. is inviting all members of the community to share a snapshot moment with their moms in the "Moments with Mom" photo competition, which began Friday last week and will continue until May 10, 2023.

The competition seeks to highlight and celebrate the most important women in our lives, as well as spread the joy of Mother's Day. The competition is also being held as part

of TanHoldings' celebration of its 50th anniversary.

As the competition's main host, TanHoldings is partnering with Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and will be awarding 50 winners with a one-night accommodation gift certificate from Crowne Plaza Resort, which will include a free breakfast and dinner for two. The winners' photo entries will also be printed in the May 12, 2023, edition of Saipan Tribune in a special Mother's Day section.

All interested individuals must simply submit a photo

of themselves and their mom, along with a brief caption, their mother's name and their contact information. Only one entry per person or family will be accepted, and selfies are allowed. The final day of submissions will be on May 10, 2023, until 5pm. Entries may be submitted via email at rina_robles@tanholdings.com, or delivered personally at the Tan Siu Lin Foundation office on the second floor of the JP Center Building in Garapan. For more information contact Robles at (670) 235-0561, Ext. 118.



LIBRARIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Community library workers, dignitaries, representatives of government departments and agencies, and partnering community organizations join Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, JKPL executive director Erlinda C. Naputi, and Women's Affairs Office special assistant Barbara T. Sablan last Friday for the proclamation signing that designates the week of April 23-29, 2023 as National Library Week; April 25, 2023, as National Library Workers Day; and April 26, 2023, as National Library Outreach Day..

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Business

BAB Korean Restaurant brings back dinner buffet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Due to insistent public demand BAB Korean Restaurant is bringing back its very popular dinner buffet.

Dante Conlu, who handles marketing and promotions for the Garapan restaurant, said their \$24.99 Korean barbecue buffet will make its comeback starting next month, just in time for the graduation season and Mother's Day.

"Public demand has driven us to consider bringing back the popular Korean barbecue buffet. Months after stopping the eat-all-you-can offering, we will restart the buffet after receiving a lot of calls from customers who have really missed our Korean barbecue buffet including the hot pot," he said.

Just like old times, the BAB Korean Restaurant's dinner smorgasbord will include Korean appetizers or banchan, marinated chicken, pork belly, marinated pork butt, beef brisket, and hotdog and side dishes of corn, sliced onion, and sliced potato. Customers also get to play chef with their own personal grill.

Also making a return is their hot pot or shabu shabu that will include green leafy vegetables, tofu, bean sprouts, slices of pork, and flavoring sauce.

BAB Korean Restaurant's dinner buffet costs only \$24.99 and \$12 for children ages 5-9 years old. It will initially only be available three



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BAB Korean Restaurant is bringing back its all-time favorite Korean barbecue buffet and hot pot.

times a week—Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 5pm to 9:30pm—with the remaining days open for reservation only for at least 25 persons and up.

Conlu said if the dinner buffet becomes a hit, they will consider extending it for the other days.

Speaking of Mother's Day, BAB Korean Restaurant is also looking to hold a Mother's Day barbecue lunch special on May 14.

Conlu said they also recently introduced four new items to its menu—fresh Vietnamese lumpia (\$10 for four rolls), creamy shrimp BAB (\$11), creamy shrimp chaser (\$15), and kimchi pancakes (\$5).

BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the old Caesar's Sauna building along Beach Road in Garapan. It's open Monday-Sunday from 11am to 9:30pm. Cup BAB drive-thru in Garapan is open from 10am to 10pm and the San Jose branch is open from 10am to 9pm. For reservations and for more information, call 233-4222 (Garapan) and 235-4222 (San Jose) or contact them on their Facebook page: Cup BAB.

Conlu said they also recently introduced four new items to its menu—fresh Vietnamese lumpia (\$10 for four rolls), creamy shrimp BAB (\$11), creamy shrimp chaser (\$15), and kimchi pancakes (\$5).



MARK RABAGO

BAB Korean Restaurant recently added fresh Vietnamese lumpia (\$10 for four rolls), creamy shrimp BAB (\$11), creamy shrimp chaser (\$15), and kimchi pancakes (\$5) to its menu.

Thefts prompt 17 states to urge recall of Kia, Hyundai cars

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—Attorneys general in 17 states on Thursday urged the federal government to recall millions of Kia and Hyundai cars because they are too easy to steal, a response to a sharp increase in thefts fueled by a viral social media challenge.

Some Kia and Hyundai cars sold in the United States over the last decade do not have engine immobilizers, a standard feature on most cars that prevents the engine from starting unless the key is present.

Videos circulating on social media have shown how people can start Kia and Hyundai models by using only a screwdriver and a USB cable. In Los Angeles, thefts of Hyundai and Kia cars increased by about 85% in 2022, now accounting for 20% of all car thefts in the city, according to the California attorney general's office.

These social media-inspired thefts have often ended in tragedy, with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration blaming the stolen car trend for 14 reported crashes and eight deaths. In October, a police commissioner said that a car crash in Buffalo, New York, that left four teenagers dead may have been linked to the social media challenge. In the incident, a total of six teenagers were in a speeding Kia that crashed, Buffalo

police said. The car had been reported stolen.

"The bottom line is, Kia's and Hyundai's failure to install standard safety features on many of their vehicles have put vehicle owners and the public at risk," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a news release. "Instead of taking responsibility with appropriate corrective action, these carmakers have chosen instead to pass this risk onto consumers and our communities."

Bonta and the other attorneys general sent a letter on Thursday to NHTSA requesting a nationwide recall. The letter also was signed by attorneys general from Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Kia said in a statement that it is focused on the issue, "and we continue to take action to address the concerns these attorneys general have raised." The automaker says more than 165,000 customers have had the software installed, and over 2 million owners have been contacted about it. The company says the vehicles comply with federal safety standards, so a recall isn't necessary.

Supreme Court preserves access to abortion pill for now

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Friday preserved women's access to a drug used in the most common method of abortion, rejecting lower-court restrictions while a lawsuit continues.

The justices granted emergency requests from the Biden administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, maker of the drug mifepristone. They are appealing a lower court ruling that would roll back Food and Drug Administration approval of mifepristone.

The drug has been approved for use in the U.S. since 2000 and more than 5 million people have used it. Mifepristone is used in combination with a second drug, misoprostol, in more than half of all abortions in the U.S.

The court's action Friday almost certainly will leave access to mifepristone unchanged at

least into next year, as appeals play out, including a potential appeal to the high court. The next stop for the case is at the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, which has set arguments in the case for May 17.

Two of the nine justices — Samuel Alito, the author of last year's decision overturning Roe v. Wade, and Clarence Thomas — voted to allow restrictions to take effect, and Alito issued a four-page dissent. No other justices commented on the court's one-paragraph order, and the court did not release a full vote breakdown.

President Joe Biden praised the high court for keeping mifepristone available while the court fight continues.

"The stakes could not be higher for women across America. I will continue to fight politically-driven attacks on wom-

en's health. But let's be clear — the American people must continue to use their vote as their voice, and elect a Congress who will pass a law restoring the protections of Roe v. Wade," Biden said in a statement.

Alliance Defending Freedom, representing abortion opponents challenging the FDA's approval of mifepristone, downplayed the court's action.

"As is common practice, the Supreme Court has decided to maintain the status quo that existed prior to our lawsuit while our challenge to the FDA's illegal approval of chemical abortion drugs and its removal of critical safeguards for those drugs moves forward," ADF lawyer Erik Baptist said in a statement.

The justices weighed arguments that allowing restrictions contained in lower-court rulings to take effect would

severely disrupt the availability of mifepristone.

The Supreme Court had initially said it would decide by Wednesday whether the restrictions could take effect while the case continues. A one-sentence order signed by Alito on Wednesday gave the justices two additional days, without explanation.

The challenge to mifepristone is the first abortion controversy to reach the nation's highest court since its conservative majority overturned Roe v. Wade 10 months ago and allowed more than a dozen states to effectively ban abortion outright.

In his majority opinion last June, Alito said one reason for overturning Roe was to remove federal courts from the abortion fight. "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives," he wrote.

Asia



ASIAN BRIEFS

China's FM holds talks in Philippines amid strained ties

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China's foreign minister said Saturday his country is willing to work with the Philippines to resolve their differences, as tensions rise over Beijing's behavior in the disputed South China Sea and Manila's deepening military cooperation with the U.S. Foreign Minister Qin Gang held talks in Manila with his Philippine counterpart, Enrique Manalo, and was scheduled to meet with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. just days before he travels to Washington for a meeting with President Joe Biden. China has warned that a deepening security alliance between the United States and the Philippines should not harm its security and territorial interests and interfere in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Beijing has criticized a recent agreement by the Philippines and the U.S. to grant U.S. forces access to additional local military camps. The deal allows American forces to establish military staging grounds and surveillance outposts in the northern Philippines across the sea from Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory, and in provinces facing the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety. "We are willing to work together with Philippines to implement the consensus of both leaders, keep China-Philippine ties in the right direction, safeguard the overall situation of our bilateral relationship, work together to continue our tradition of friendship, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and properly resolve our differences in the spirit of credibility, consultation, and dialogue," Qin told reporters.

China FM: Taiwan, foreign supporters 'playing with fire'

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister warned Taiwan and its supporters on Friday that they are "playing with fire" if they go against Beijing's demand to exert control over the self-governing island democracy. Qin Gang's remarks came at the end of a speech espousing China's contribution to the global economy and the interests of developing nations, in which he repeatedly praised Communist Party Secretary General Xi Jinping's Global Security Initiative. The concept is the latest of China's moves to position its single-party political system, with its claim to social stability

and economic growth, as an alternative to the Western liberal approach that largely defines international relations. Toward the end of his speech in the financial hub of Shanghai, Qin turned to what China calls the "Taiwan problem." While China has taken a consistently hard-line position on Taiwan, it has usually delegated threatening statements to spokespeople or lower-lever diplomats speaking through news releases or in bilateral settings. Qin answers directly to the Politburo Standing Committee of the ruling Communist Party led by deeply nationalistic leader Xi, and his comments Friday reflected a harsher tone of Chinese language over the possibility of a military clash over Taiwan.

Japan gets ready to shoot down N. Korea spy satellite debris

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's defense chief on Saturday ordered troops to activate missile interceptors and get ready to shoot down fragments from a North Korean satellite that may fall on the Japanese territory. North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un said earlier this week that its first military spy satellite that will be launched at an unspecified date. North Korea has test-fired about 100 missiles since early last year, saying it was responding to joint U.S.-South Korean military drills that it calls an invasion rehearsal. Several of the missiles flew over Japan or landed off the northern Japanese coast. Last week, North Korea test-launched a solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time. Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada on Saturday instructed troops to ready PAC-3 surface-to-air missiles in southwestern Japan, including Okinawa and nearby islands, in an area believed to be under a flight path of a North Korean rocket that will carry the satellite.

Japan PM sends offerings to controversial Tokyo shrine

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida donated religious offerings on Friday to a Tokyo shrine that China and the Koreans consider a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism. Kishida donated Shinto "masakaki" ornaments for Yasukuni Shrine's biennial festival, as he has since becoming prime minister in October 2021. The donations are seen as a gesture toward conservative governing party lawmakers and voters. Yasukuni honors

about 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including convicted war criminals. Victims of Japanese aggression during the first half of the 20th century, especially China and the Koreans, see the shrine as a symbol of Japanese militarism, and visits by lawmakers to the shrine as signs of their lack of remorse over Japan's wartime actions. "China urges Japan to completely draw a clear line with militarism and take practical actions to win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community," Wang said. Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi visited Yasukuni on Friday and said she paid respects and expressed her appreciation to those who sacrificed their lives in the war. Another Cabinet member, Health and Welfare Minister Katsunobu Kato, donated religious offerings to the shrine. More than 80 conservative lawmakers led by Ichiro Aisawa, a senior member of Kishida's governing party, visited the shrine together. The group included nearly a dozen deputy ministers and aides in Kishida's Cabinet.

Indian police arrest Sikh separatist leader after long hunt

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian police on Sunday arrested a separatist leader who has revived calls for an independent Sikh homeland and the secession of India's northern Punjab state, which has a history of violent insurgency. Amritpal Singh had been on the run since last month after capturing national attention in February, when hundreds of his supporters stormed a police station in Ajnala, a town in Punjab state, with wooden batons, swords and guns to demand the release of a jailed aide. Punjab state police tweeted Sunday that Singh was arrested in Moga, a town in the state. It gave no details but appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony. A Sikh religious leader, Jasbir Singh Rodde, said Singh surrendered to police after offering morning prayers at a Sikh shrine in Moga. Police then arrested him and took him away, he said. Punjab suffered a bloody insurgency in the 1980s that led to the killing of India's then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards at her official residence in New Delhi. Her killing triggered bloody rioting by her Hindu supporters against Sikhs in northern India. Police declared Singh, a 30-year-old preacher, a fugitive and accused him and his aides of creating discord in the state.

World

IN WARRING SUDAN

Special forces rescue US embassy staffers



In this photo provided by Maheen S, smoke fills the sky in Khartoum, Sudan, near Doha International Hospital on Friday, April 21, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. special operations forces carried out a precarious evacuation of the American embassy violence-torn Sudan, U.S. officials said late Saturday, sweeping in and out of the capital, Khartoum, with helicopters on the ground for less than an hour. No shots were fired and no major casualties were reported.

With the last U.S. employee of the embassy out, Washington shuttered the U.S. mission in Khartoum indefinitely. Left behind are thousands of Americans remaining in Sudan, with officials saying it would be too dangerous to carry out a broader evacuation mission.

In a statement thanking the troops, President Joe Biden

said he was receiving regular reports from his team on efforts to assist those remaining Americans in Sudan "to the extent possible."

He also called for the end to "unconscionable" violence there as two rival commanders battled for power in the African country.

About 100 U.S. troops in three MH-47 helicopters carried out the operation as fighting between two armed Sudanese commanders — which has killed more than 400, put the nation at risk of collapse and could have consequences far beyond its borders—moved into a second week.

Biden said he was receiving regular reports from his

team on efforts to assist those remaining Americans in Sudan "to the extent possible."

The roughly 70 American staffers were airlifted from a landing zone at the embassy to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the mission.

"I am proud of the extraordinary commitment of our Embassy staff, who performed their duties with courage and professionalism and embodied America's friendship and connection with the people of Sudan," Biden said in a statement. "I am grateful for the unmatched skill of our service members who successfully brought them to safety."

After Russia bombs own city, explosive found at same site

Seventeen apartment buildings were evacuated Saturday in a Russian city near the Ukrainian border after an explosive device was found at the site where a bomb accidentally dropped by a Russian warplane caused a powerful blast this week, authorities said.

The bomb blast late Thursday rocked part of Belgorod, leaving a large crater and three people injured. The Russian Defense Ministry quickly acknowledged that a weapon accidentally released by one of its own Su-34 bombers caused the explosion.

The ministry said an investigation was underway but did not elaborate on the details of the weapon, which military experts said likely was a powerful 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) bomb.

The governor of Belgorod province, Vyacheslav

Gladkov, reported Saturday that sappers examining the site of Thursday's blast found and decided to detonate what he called an "explosive object" that was "in the immediate vicinity of residential buildings."

The precautionary evacuations ended later in the day, according to Belgorod Mayor Valentin Demidov.

"The bomb was removed from the residential area. Residents are being delivered back to their homes," Demidov wrote on Telegram.

Russian authorities did not say if the detonated device was dropped by accident on Thursday and if so, if it was a remnant of or separate from the bomb that exploded in the city.

Belgorod, located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of the Russia-Ukraine border, has faced regular drone attacks since Russia

sent troops into Ukraine last year. Russian authorities have blamed those strikes on the Ukrainian military, which refrained from directly claiming responsibility for the attacks.

Late Saturday, the governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said five missiles fired from the Belgorod area hit the region, including one that struck unspecified "civilian infrastructure" in the capital city Kharkiv.

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine has sent relations with the West into deep freeze, with frequent expulsions of diplomats on both sides.

On Saturday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that German authorities had "decided on another mass expulsion of employees of Russian diplomatic missions in Germany."

Health & Wellness

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Ways to manage pain, swelling during marathon training

Everyone has heard the saying “No pain, no gain,” and, if you’re training for a long-distance race, chances are that you’ve felt some pain.

“General muscle soreness and mild discomfort is common among runners, and it often is the sign of a successful training program,” says Paul Osterman, a licensed athletic trainer in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at Mayo Clinic Health System. “When training for a long-distance race, it’s important to gradually progress your training and not overstress your body. Overtraining can result

when you push your training too quickly, and the workload exceeds your body’s normal ability to adapt to the stress placed on it without appropriate rest or recovery time.”

When putting your body through the rigorous training required for a marathon, how much pain is too much? When should you power through, and when should you take it easy and get checked out?

Here are a few of Osterman’s tips for warning signs when training for a marathon:

The most important thing is to listen to your body.

Sometimes runners get into a mentality that they

must finish a particular run in progress, and they don’t listen to or respond appropriately to their aches and pain.

A lot of runners experience knee pain, and it doesn’t mean that you have to give up on your goal, especially if your pain level is low—0 to 3 on a 10-point scale—consistent, doesn’t escalate and you don’t have swelling the day after the run.

If your knee pain is at a lower level and never changes, you can keep running. Use ice and stretching or lower your running intensity to ease the pain, rather than use medication to mask the pain.

Worsening pain means you

need to see a provider.

If your pain level escalates more than two points, or you wake up with swelling in your hip, knee or foot, you need to get checked out or you may increase your risk of worsening the injury.

One thing that prevents athletes from getting checked out is the fear they’ll be told they must stop training. While there are cases when a health care provider must say a runner shouldn’t run, it’s likely you can keep working toward your goal in some capacity. Pain that is short-lived, improves with activity or resolves with rest is generally not concerning.



MAYO CLINIC Q&A:

Can a supplement help you sleep?

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I often struggle to fall asleep at night, and then I have difficulty staying asleep. This pattern tends to occur more in the springtime. A friend suggested I try melatonin. Are there any side effects to worry about with melatonin use? Are there other things I can do to help get more rest?

ANSWER: Getting a good night’s sleep is important. It can be frustrating when you struggle to fall and stay asleep. Work, household responsibilities and family commitments sometimes take priority over sleep. Factor in a partner’s snoring or unexpected challenges, such as financial worries or an illness, and quality sleep might be even more elusive.

While there are many self-care things you can do to

improve your sleep, over-the-counter sleep aids, including melatonin supplements, may be valuable.

Melatonin is a hormone naturally produced by your body, which plays a role in the sleep-wake cycle. Your body’s melatonin levels increase as darkness approaches, peak during the night and decrease as dawn arrives. Certain things can throw off this cycle. For instance, being exposed to light when you’d normally be sleeping—like during shift work—can affect this rhythm. Chronic illnesses, increased age and medications also can decrease melatonin production.

Melatonin supplements may be helpful for people who have trouble sleeping, in part because they may increase low levels of melatonin. In these people, research suggests that melatonin supplements can:

- Reduce the time it takes to fall asleep.

- Increase total sleep time.

- Improve the quality of sleep.

One study found that a relatively low, over-the-counter dose of melatonin was enough to improve nighttime sleep without added drowsiness the next day. Some research suggests that melatonin supplements also may provide some relief from insomnia and jet lag.

Melatonin is considered fairly safe in the short term. Although some people may experience

daytime sleepiness and tiredness after waking, the supplement has fewer side effects than prescription sleep drugs. Melatonin doesn’t cause dependence, for example.

The most common melatonin side effects include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Daytime drowsiness

Other, less common melatonin side effects might include:

- Vivid dreams or nightmares
- Short-term feelings of depression
- Irritability
- Stomach cramps
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Decreased appetite
- Urinary incontinence at night
- Increased risk of falls
- Increased risk of seizures
- Confusion or disorientation
- Mood swings
- Reduced alertness

If you’re considering taking a melatonin supplement, talk with your health care professional to decide what dose is right for you. This is also important since melatonin can interact with certain drugs, including those commonly used to prevent seizures and manage high blood pressure, diabetes and immunosuppressants. Your health care team may recommend adjusting your medication or supplement doses for the best effects.

Also keep in mind that, as with any supplement, melatonin shouldn’t be the first or only remedy you use to try to resolve a health concern such as insomnia. It needs to be cou-

pled with lifestyle choices that create a solid foundation for good health, including good nutrition, daily exercise and good sleep practices.

Consider these tips that can help with your sleep habits:

- Stick to a schedule. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day, including weekends. Being consistent reinforces your body’s sleep-wake cycle.

- Pay attention to what you eat and drink before bed. Don’t go to bed hungry or

stuffed. Avoid heavy or large meals within a few hours of bedtime. And limit the intake of nicotine, caffeine and alcohol, as the effects can interfere with sleep.

- Create a restful environment by keeping your bedroom cool, dark and quiet. Consider using room-darkening shades, earplugs, a fan, or other devices to keep your room cool, dark and quiet. Exposure to light in the evenings might make it more challenging to fall asleep.

■ Additionally, limit technology use because prolonged exposure to screens can be disruptive. Instead, focus on calming activities before bedtime, such as taking a bath, meditation or journaling, which can help ease anxiety and promote better sleep.

If you are still struggling to sleep after trying melatonin or are experiencing other challenges, speak with your health care team about a sleep study. *(Compiled by Mayo Clinic staff)*

Do’s and don’ts for feeding infants

ON NUTRITION

By Barbara Intermill
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I had a conversation with a young mom who was surprised to hear some of the new guidelines for feeding infants in the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 (www.dietaryguidelines.gov). The recommendations are updated every five years by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

One of the best ways to start an infant off on the path of lifelong healthy nutrition, say experts, is to feed human milk exclusively for at least the first six months of life.

Starting at about 6 months, continue breast milk or iron-fortified infant formula and begin to introduce nutrient-dense complementary foods. Especially important at 6 months are foods rich in iron and zinc, minerals needed for baby’s fast-growing nervous system and immune function. (Infants are normally born with enough stored iron to last about 6 months. That’s why they

need additional sources after this time.)

Recommended iron-rich foods include iron-fortified infant cereal, meats and seafood. Foods on the zinc-rich list include zinc-fortified infant cereal, meat and beans.

Why meat? This panel of experts has recognized it as a nutrient-dense food—one that packs iron, zinc, protein and other nutrients into every bite.

Along with these foods, parents are encouraged to give baby a variety of tastes, textures and food groups, including baby-consistency fruits, veggies, eggs and yogurt.

Here’s a new recommendation: Instead of avoiding potentially allergenic foods such as peanuts, wheat, shellfish and soy, introduce them along with other foods around 6 months. Research has shown that introducing these foods in the first year of life can reduce the likelihood of an allergy. Consult your child’s pediatrician for the safest way to do this, especially if your little one is at high risk for allergies.

There are also some “don’ts” for feeding babies.

Do not introduce solid foods before four months of age. Ba-

bies must be developmentally ready to swallow by showing these signs:

- Can control their neck so the head doesn’t wobble
- Can sit up alone or with support
- Can bring objects to their mouth
- Can try to grasp small objects
- Can swallow baby-consistency food without pushing it back out

Do not feed infants any raw or cooked honey until after one year of age. Babies can get seriously ill or die if the honey contains *Clostridium botulinum*, the organism that causes botulism.

Do not give foods that have not been pasteurized (heat treated to kill harmful bacteria) such as unpasteurized juices, milk, yogurt or cheese.

Do not switch to regular cow’s milk from breast milk or infant formula until your child reaches 12 months. Their digestive tracts are not mature enough until then.

Do not feed foods an infant could choke on, including hot dogs, candy, nuts, raw carrots, grapes, popcorn or chunks of peanut butter.

And don’t forget to give your baby lots of love.

Healthy Living

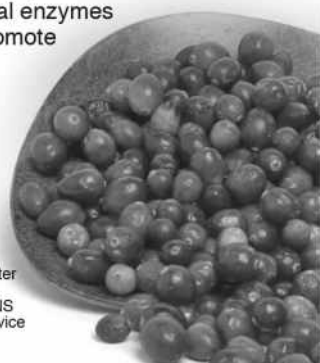
Cranberry’s bite

Chemicals in cranberries may ward off tooth decay, but cranberry drinks – not so much. They are usually high in sugar.

Tooth story

• Chemicals in the berry keep bacteria from clinging to teeth

• And they block bacterial enzymes that promote plaque



Source:
University
of Rochester
Medical
Center, TNS
Photo Service

Life & Style

AP image of Mariupol hospital attack wins World Press Photo

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Associated Press photographer Evgeniy Maloletka won the World Press Photo of the Year award on Thursday for his harrowing image of emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, in the chaotic aftermath of a Russian attack.

The Ukrainian photographer's March 9, 2022, image of the fatally wounded woman, her left hand on her bloodied lower left abdomen, drove home the horror of Russia's brutal onslaught in the eastern port city early in the war.

The 32-year-old woman, Iryna Kalinina, died of her injuries a half-hour after giving birth to the lifeless body of her baby, named Miron.

"For me, it is a moment that all the time I want to forget, but I cannot. The story will always stay with me," Maloletka said in an interview before the announcement.

"Evgeniy Maloletka captured one of the most defining images of the Russia-Ukraine war amid incredibly challenging circumstances. Without his unflinching courage, little would be known of one of Russia's most brutal attacks. We are enormously proud of him," AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Julie Pace said.

AP Director of Photography J. David Ake added: "It's not often that a single image becomes seared into the world's collective memory. Evgeniy Maloletka lived up to the highest standards of photojournal-



Iryna Kalinina, 32, an injured pregnant woman, is carried from a maternity hospital that was damaged during a Russian airstrike in Mariupol, Ukraine, on 9 March 2022. Associated Press photographer Evgeniy Maloletka won the World Press Photo of the Year award on Thursday, April 20, 2023, for this harrowing image.

ism by capturing the 'decisive moment,' while upholding the tradition of AP journalists worldwide to shine a light on what would have otherwise remained unseen."

Maloletka, AP video journalist Mystyslav Chernov and AP producer Vasilisa Stepanenko, who are also Ukrainian, arrived in Mariupol just as Russia's full-scale invasion, which began on Feb. 24, 2022, sparked Europe's biggest conflict since World War II. They stayed for more than two weeks, chronicling the Russian military pounding the city and hitting hospitals and other civilian infrastructure. An AP in-

vestigation found that as many as 600 people may have been killed when a Mariupol theater being used as a bomb shelter was hit on March 16 last year.

The three were the only international journalists left in the city when they finally managed a risky escape.

World Press Photo Foundation Executive Director Joumana El Zein Khoury told the AP that jury members decided quickly Maloletka's image should win the prestigious prize.

She said it was "apparent from the beginning that it needed to win. All the jury members said it really from the

beginning of the judging. And why? Because it really shows how war and especially in this case, the Ukrainian war, affects not only one generation, but multiple generations."

Maloletka said the team believed it was important to remain in Mariupol, despite the danger, "to collect the people's voices and to show them all around the world."

A series of photos by Maloletka from besieged Mariupol won the European regional World Press Photo Stories award that was announced in March. Maloletka's images from Mariupol also have been

honored with awards including the Knight International Journalism Award, the Visa d'or News Award and the Prix Bayeux Calvados-Normandie.

"I think it is really important that specifically a Ukrainian won the contest showing the atrocities against civilians by Russian forces in Ukraine," he said. "It is important that all the pictures we were doing in Mariupol became evidence of a war crime against Ukrainians."

In the three other global categories announced Thursday, two-time World Press Photo winner Mads Nissen of Denmark won Photo Story of the

Year for his series for Politiken and Panos Pictures, titled "The Price of Peace in Afghanistan," about daily life in Afghanistan in 2022.

Anush Babajanyan of Armenia won the Long-Term Project award for "Battered Waters" for VII Photo and National Geographic Society, and Egyptian photographer Mohamed Mahdy won the Open Format award for "Here, The Doors Don't Know Me."

"The four global winners represent the best photos and stories from the most important and urgent topics of 2022," Brent Lewis, global jury chair, and New York Times photo editor said in a statement. "They also help to continue the tradition of what it is possible to do with photography, and how photography helps us to see the universality of the human condition."

The four global winners were selected from more than 60,000 entries submitted by 3,752 entrants from 127 countries.

Regional winners announced earlier included Maya Levin for her image for AP of Israeli police beating mourners carrying the coffin of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was fatally shot while covering an Israeli military raid in the West Bank. Following international pressure, Israeli defense forces admitted it was likely that one of their soldiers shot the prominent correspondent. The IDF denied that the shooting was intentional and declared the case closed.

Sounds of verbal abuse echo outside the walls

DEAR ABBY: I live on the bottom floor of a duplex with my wife. My brother-in-law, his wife and their two sons, ages 4 and 2, are upstairs. Since the 2-year-old was born, he's been very rambunctious and fussy. I consider my BIL a good parent overall, but for a while now, I hear him blow up, scream, curse and shout at the younger child. I don't think it's healthy.

I have a hard time with it because of my upbringing, which left a mark. I grew up in a home ruled by intimidation. I am also a school counselor. The 4-year-old has a pronounced speech impediment that I'm hoping the school will help with. As an adult and someone who works with kids, it bothers me to hear this go on every day in our home.

I wouldn't dare to say anything to my BIL or SIL. I'm just worried about the boys. Will they be OK? Please, let me know what to do. We all want my nephews to be well, but I can't blur the line between counselor and aunt.

FULL OF CONCERN IN THE EAST

DEAR FULL: Nothing will change unless you find the courage to speak out. Involve your wife in this. Both of you should talk to your brother-in-law and sister-in-law about how being intimidated from an early age affected your life. Suggest that if the kids are becoming more than your BIL can handle, he find a way to take a break from them until he calms down. The school may be able to help the older boy

with his speech impediment, and you should make sure that the help is requested. Beyond this, there's nothing more you can do to change the unhealthy dynamic upstairs.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was in a relationship for 48 years. We lived together for 15 years, were married for 30 years and divorced three years ago. We have one married child, who has three children. Not all of our years together were glorious. We had our share of problems, and we just grew apart. Yes, we slept in the same bed and went on vacations, but there was no intimacy for a good 20 years. I would have to ask him for a hug or a kiss, which he would give, but I didn't feel loved. I love him, but I'm no longer in love with him.

I help him any time he asks. We live in the same town. I'm now wondering if our current relationship is a convenience. We share a meal a couple times a week, and he calls or texts almost daily. But he doesn't want me around his current group of friends.

I have my own outside interests, but I'm trying to figure out where I stand in his life. I think I'm OK with a friendship with him. We're both retired. For the record, I have no desire to date, nor do I want to put myself in that position. I dislike being out by myself after dark. Advice, please?

MOVED ON IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR MOVED ON: If you want to know where you

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



stand in your ex-husband's life, ASK HIM. From my long-distance perspective, the two of you have four decades-plus of mutual experiences, and it's a relationship that has value. If you derive some pleasure from it, why throw it away? However, if maintaining a relationship with him prevents you from moving on in your own life, concentrate on widening your circle of friends and going forward independently.

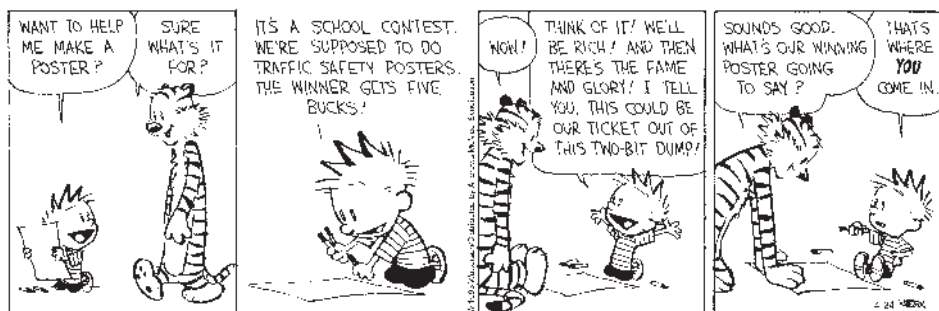
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



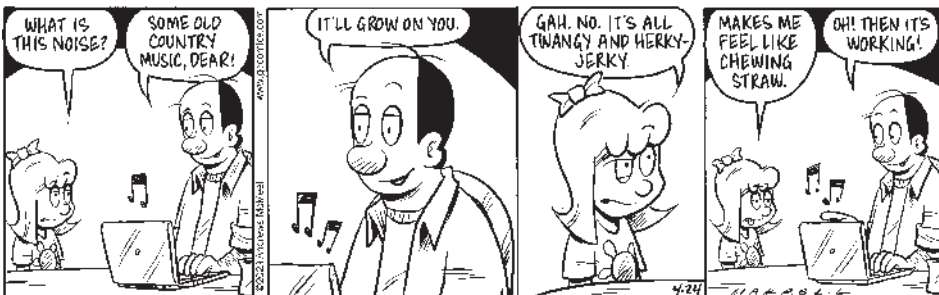
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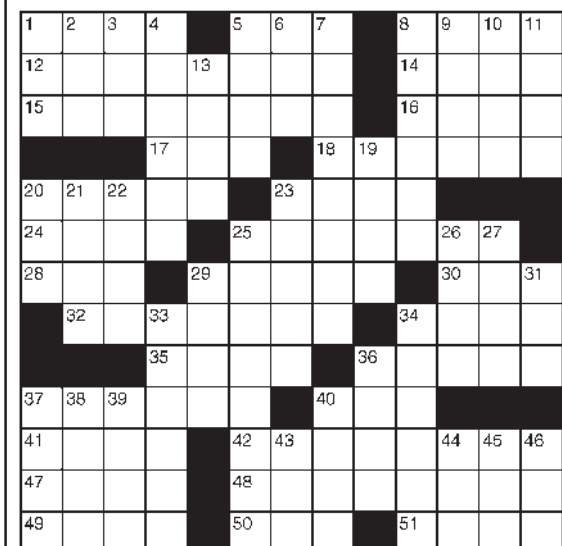
1 Nightclub of song
5 Moment
8 Hawaiian city
12 Im-mature
14 Epps of "This Is Us"
15 Degree recipient
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17 Arctic explorer John
18 Mexican farm
20 Divided, as a window
23 Takeout request
24 Slightly
25 Appealing
28 Nanny's charge
29 Nibbles
30 Shock partner
32 Shark's stick
34 Winnebago owner, briefly

DOWN

35 Union payment
36 Compote fruits
37 Spelunking spot
40 Epoch
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Person chosen
47 Revise
48 Current
49 Arp's art
50 Dawn goddess
51 Pouch-like parts
1 Roman 300
2 "Caught va!"

3 Brooch
4 "Batman" butler
5 Beget
6 Compass pt.
7 Iroquoian language
8 Mingle
9 Apple variety
10 Cillum
11 Crunchy cookie
13 Out of play
19 Turkish officials
20 Bit of butter
21 Perched on
22 Peace-keeping org.
38 Verdi heroine
39 Nullify
40 Yale students
43 Outer (Pref.)
44 Brewed drink
45 SASE, e.g.
46 Roswell visitors

Last Friday's Answer 04/24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katherine Webb, 34; David Boudia, 34; Kelly Clarkson, 41; Barbra Streisand, 81.

Happy Birthday: It's what you do that counts this year. Actions and transparency will pay off and encourage others to pitch in and help. Opportunities may not be easy to find, but dedication to what makes you feel passionate and inspired will develop into something worthwhile. Don't be afraid to make a last-minute change. Let your instincts lead the way. Your numbers are 3, 15, 24, 26, 32, 43, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen to the information you receive, but refuse to let someone play with your emotions. Take the time to get the lowdown and determine what's true. A change at home may be trying, but the results you get will pay off. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pick up the pace, finish what you start and chat with people who can offer insight into something you want to learn or pursue. Embrace something new and exciting that promises to enrich your life or enhance your relationship with someone influential. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be a sucker for a sob story. Evaluate information to determine if you want to participate. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. Learn from experience and focus on what will benefit you most, then proceed. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your suggestions will impact someone needing good advice. Don't hesitate to share your wisdom, and pitch in and help someone you love

and respect. A kind gesture will bring you closer together. Be transparent; share your thoughts and intentions. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keeping up requires learning as you go. Take the back roads if it will give you more time to digest what's happening around you. Getting the facts straight and your response tailored to fit the circumstances are essential. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Address emotional issues before a situation spins out of control. Make changes to keep the peace that also allow you to follow your dream. If you are open regarding your intentions, you'll get the help you need to reach your goal. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep moving, participate and stay fit. Don't give up or give in. Know in your heart what you want, and be willing to say what's on your mind to ensure you reach your target. Self-improvement will result in added confidence to press forward. ★★★★★

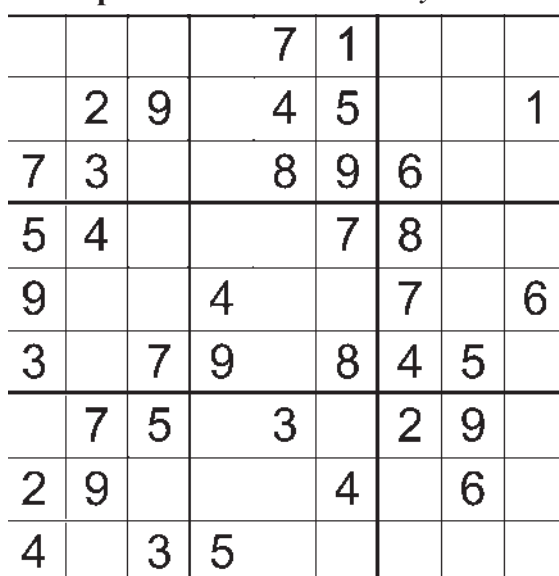
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone who inspires you to do things your way will command your attention. Let your imagination lead the way, and your ideas will manifest into something new and exciting. Set goals, a timeline and a budget, and don't stop moving forward. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Protect your home and family, and don't believe everything you hear. Avoid events or situations that rob you of your cash or use valuable time. Pay attention to what's important to you instead of bowing to other people's demands. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



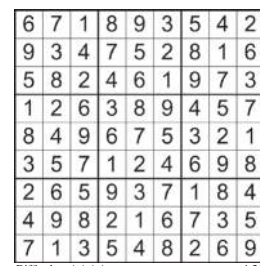
Difficulty: ★

4/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★

4-21

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make concessions that will please others and make your life easier. The time and effort you spend on loved ones and building a secure future will help you say no to tempting-but-costly offers. Don't share personal information with colleagues. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Choose to be disciplined; it will make your life easier. Concentrate on getting things done, not talking about your intentions. A proactive approach will have the most significant influence on the people you want to recruit. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more effort into bringing in more cash. Look for other outlets for your skills and services. Connect with individuals who can offer insight and connect you to people who can help you expand your interests and advance your career. Avoid health risks. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, helpful and courageous. You are proactive and unpredictable.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VICTUALS

Solution: 6 letters



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Appetizing, Bites, Bread, Carnival, Chew, Chill, Chow, Cook, Cuisine, Culinary, Dairy, Decadent, Diet, Digest, Diner, Dishes, Drink, Eats, Edibles, Entrée, Fara, Feast, Food, Gourmet, Grub, Ingest, Kitchens, Meals, Meat, Nosh, Palatable, Piquant, Protein, Provisions, Refreshment, Savory, Scallion, Snack, Solid, Staple, Substance, Supplies, Tasty, Tidbits

Last Friday's Answer: Asteroids

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Butler scores 30, Heat top Giannis-less Bucks, 121-99



MIAMI (AP)—Jimmy Butler took a hard fall. Victor Oladipo took a harder one. And the Miami Heat still found a way to knock off the Milwaukee Bucks, reclaiming the lead in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Butler scored 30 points before leaving with a sore glute, leading the eighth-seeded Heat past the top-seeded Bucks 121-99 on Saturday night for a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

But what should have been a celebratory postgame—big win, series lead, halfway to upsetting the NBA's top overall seed—was anything but, after Oladipo left in the fourth quarter after a knee injury that had the Heat fearing very bad news.

"I feel probably like how everybody feels," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It was a great win, but when you see a player go down like that—especially a player like Vic who's gone through so much in the last three years ... that's definitely not a good feeling."

Injuries have now become the biggest story in this series. The Bucks were without two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo for a second consecutive game because of a bruised lower back, an injury he suffered in Game 1. The Heat were already without Tyler Herro because of a broken right hand, also from Game 1.

Butler wasn't moving well, and Oladipo's situation—even without the Heat offering an initial diagnosis yet—did not seem good, based on the instant reaction of disbelief from teammates and staffers who rushed to his side as he grabbed at the knee.



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) reacts after shooting a 3-pointer during the first half of Game 3 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Milwaukee Bucks, Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Miami.

"We're all praying for the best," said Heat guard Duncan Robinson, who scored 20 points on his 29th birthday for Miami. Kyle Lowry scored 15 for the Heat.

Khris Middleton scored 23 points, Jrue Holiday added 19 and Grayson Allen scored 14 for Milwaukee.

Game 4 is in Miami on Monday night, when the Heat will aim for a 3-1 lead. Miami took Game 1, Milwaukee took Game 2, Miami won Game 3 and now it'll be the Bucks looking for another bounce-back.

"We need to be better," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Like I said, give them credit. They played well. We need to be better. We need to deal with a lot of things better. That'll be the challenge going into the next game."

With the win, the Heat are

halfway to what would be a stunner—a No. 8 seed over a No. 1 seed, something that's happened only five times since the NBA went to the 16-team playoff format in 1984.

Those who pulled it off: Denver over Seattle 3-2 in 1994, New York over Miami 3-2 in 1999, Golden State over Dallas 4-2 in 2007, Memphis over San Antonio 4-2 in 2011 and Philadelphia over Chicago 4-2 in 2012.

Butler got hurt midway through the third quarter after trying a shot near the rim and landing on his back. He stayed in the game briefly, departed for a short stint in the locker room and returned with a large wrap on his back—with the Heat saying he would return.

He didn't, because he didn't have to. The game was in hand, and Miami eventually led by as many as 29.

"We still had our chances," Middleton said. "Just couldn't get it together."

The first half couldn't have gone better for Miami. Butler had 17 points in the opening quarter, the Heat had a 19-0 run at one point, they set a franchise record by making 12 3's in a half—and it was still only 66-53 at the break.

The reason, again: Milwaukee was getting 3's, again. The Bucks made 25 of them in their easy Game 2 win and were 10 for 18 from deep in the first half Saturday.

But the Bucks cooled after halftime, shooting only 5 for 21 from 3-point range, and the outcome was never in doubt.

76ERS 96, NETS 88

NEW YORK (AP)—Tobias Harris had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers overcame the absence of

Joel Embiid to beat the Brooklyn Nets 96-88 on Saturday, completing a sweep that made them the first team to reach the second round of the playoffs.

James Harden added 17 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the third-seeded 76ers, who will wait for the winner of the series between the Boston Celtics and Atlanta Hawks. The defending Eastern Conference champion Celtics have a 2-1 lead.

The 76ers hope Embiid will be recovered from his sprained right knee in time for the start of the next series.

Tyrese Maxey finished a strong series with 16 points and Paul Reed added 10 points and 15 rebounds after replacing Embiid in the starting lineup.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 20 points and Nic Claxton had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who were swept for the second straight year and have lost 10 straight postseason games. They went 0-8 this season against the 76ers.

SUNS 112, CLIPPERS 100

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 31 points, Devin Booker added 30 and Phoenix defeated Los Angeles without Kawhi Leonard to take a commanding 3-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

The Clippers, who lost Game 3 by five points, again made a strong run with Leonard watching from the bench. He has missed two straight games with a sprained right knee. They're also without Paul George, who hasn't played since March 21 because of the same injury as Leonard.

Russell Westbrook carried

the Clippers in the fourth quarter. He had 14 points, including nine in a row when they twice pulled within two points.

Westbrook finished with a game-high 37 points. Norman Powell added 14 points and Terance Mann had 13 off the bench.

Game 5 is Tuesday in Phoenix.

LAKERS 111, GRIZZLIES 101

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anthony Davis had 31 points and 17 rebounds, LeBron James finished with 25 points after Dillon Brooks was ejected for striking him in the groin, and Los Angeles survived Ja Morant's 24-point fourth quarter to beat Memphis for a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Morant scored 45 points in his return from a one-game absence with a sore right hand, even scoring 22 consecutive points during his stunning fourth quarter while Memphis attempted to rally from an early 29-point deficit. Morant also had 13 assists and nine rebounds, but the second-seeded Grizzlies couldn't come all the way back after scoring a franchise-low nine points in the first quarter.

Rui Hachimura scored 16 points in another strong effort off the bench for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who came out impressively in their first home playoff game with a capacity crowd in 10 years. Los Angeles tied an NBA record by taking a 26-point lead into the second quarter, and Memphis couldn't get closer than 13 points until the final two minutes.

Game 4 is Monday night in Los Angeles.

TORONTO (AP)—Toronto Raptors president Masai Ujiri didn't see a lot to like this season as his team struggled to a .500 finish and a disappointing play-in defeat.

So Ujiri kicked off an off-season of change "on all fronts" on Friday by firing Nick Nurse, who led Toronto to its first and only NBA title four years ago.

"To watch us play this year was not us," Ujiri said Friday at his end-of-season news conference. "I did not enjoy watching this team play. I think that spoke loud and clear to everything that went on this year. It bothered all of us." It bothered coach, too. But sometimes we have to make change and we have to move forward."

Nurse went 227-163 in his five seasons as coach in Toronto, where his .582 winning percentage ranks as the best of any coach in Raptors history.

Toronto fires Nick Nurse, who led Raptors to 2019 NBA title

He also spent five years as an assistant to former Raptors coach Dwane Casey before taking over the top job.

Nurse had mused about his future before a March 31 game at Philadelphia, saying he planned to take some time to decide what he wanted next.

"Just see how the relationship with the organization is and everything," Nurse said. "It's been 10 years for me, which is a pretty good run. Over those 10 years, we've got to be up there in number of wins with anybody in the league."

Nurse was right: Only Golden State (.661) has a better winning percentage than Toronto (.613) in that span.

Ujiri said Friday that he thought it was "a mistake" for Nurse to make those comments with Toronto still bat-

ting for play-in seeding, but that it didn't factor into the decision to fire him.

Nurse led the Raptors to the title in his debut season. And despite Kawhi Leonard's departure, the Raptors were playing well before the COVID-19 pandemic halted the season in March 2020. Toronto wasn't the same in the bubble and lost to Boston in seven games in the second round of the playoffs, though Nurse did win the NBA Coach of the Year.

The Raptors then missed the playoffs in 2021, a year where they were forced to call Tampa, Florida, home because of border restrictions related to the pandemic and the challenge of getting teams in and out of Canada for games.

What Ujiri later infamously dubbed "The Tampa Tank" led to the Raptors landing the

fourth pick in the draft. They used it to select forward Scottie Barnes. He won last season's NBA Rookie of the Year award and Toronto posted a 48-34 record to earn the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference, losing to Philadelphia in six games in the first round.

And this season, the Raptors finished 41-41, good for ninth in the East. In Nurse's final game in charge, Toronto couldn't hold a 19-point lead in the third quarter and lost 109-105 in a home play-in game against Chicago.

"I think that game summed up what has gone on in this organization," Ujiri said. "The feel, the spirit of who we really are, it's been very disappointing for us. We want to gain momentum back as a team. Togetherness, culture, all the things we've stood for here, I

think we lacked this year."

The Raptors hope to have a new coach in place by the NBA draft in June, but Ujiri also said: "I think changes are going to be made on all fronts."

Former Boston coach Ime Udoka is among the candidates Toronto is expected to consider. Udoka, who has been close with Ujiri for years, led the Celtics to the NBA Finals last season, then was suspended for this season after the disclosure of an inappropriate relationship with a female Celtics employee.

"Style of play is going to be really key to how this new head coach defines what he wants to do here," Ujiri said.

It's also likely that Nurse will be considered for NBA openings, given that he's won everywhere he has been.

Nurse played at Northern

Iowa, then started his coaching career there as an assistant. He wound up becoming a head coach at Grand View University when he was just 23. He coached in Belgium and Britain—winning a pair of British Basketball League titles as a coach in Birmingham in 1996 and London in 2000—then got a couple titles in what is now called the G League.

The second G League crown got Nurse noticed. He guided Rio Grande Valley to a title in 2013 and that's when the Raptors called and wanted to talk to him about offense. They ended up hiring him as an assistant, and he'd been with Toronto ever since.

Nurse is also the head coach of the Canadian men's national team. No matter where he lands next, he's expected to continue in that role until after the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

Cubs' Smyly loses perfect game bid in 8th-inning collision



CHICAGO

(AP)—Drew Smyly lost his bid for a perfect game when he collided with catcher Yan Gomes while trying to field an eighth-inning David Peralta's dribbler that went for an infield single in the Chicago Cubs' 13-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday.

Nico Hoerner, Cody Bellinger, Trey Mancini and Patrick Wisdom homered as Chicago won for the fifth time in six games. Hoerner had four hits and four RBIs, and Wisdom and Mancini each drove in three runs.

Smyly (2-1) struck out 10 and walked none in 7 2/3 innings. Julio Urias (3-2) allowed five runs and seven hits in 3 1/3 innings.

ANGELS 2, ROYALS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani struck out a season-high 11 and allowed two hits over seven dominant innings, and fill-in catcher Chad Wallach hit a two-run homer in Los Angeles' win over Kansas City.

Ohtani (3-0) returned to the mound just four days after a lengthy rain delay limited him to two innings in Boston. He has given up two runs and eight hits over 28 innings with 38 strikeouts while lowering his ERA to 0.64 — the lowest in franchise history through a pitcher's first five starts. Ohtani also extended his franchise record with his 12th consecutive start allowing two runs or fewer.

Carlos Estévez and Jose Quijada completed the three-

hit shutout, with Quijada earning his fourth save.

Ryan Yarbrough (0-2) took the loss for Kansas City, which opened a 10-game trip with its seventh consecutive defeat and its 10th in 11 games.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, PADRES 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen threw seven innings of two-hit ball to run his scoreless streak to 21 2/3 innings, Gabriel Moreno had three hits and three RBIs, and Arizona beat San Diego.

Gallen (3-1) retired 14 straight Padres during one stretch. He struck out 11 and walked none. His scoreless streak is currently the longest in the majors.

San Diego's Seth Lugo (2-1) gave up two runs on six hits over six innings, striking out six and walking one.

METS 7, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Pete Alonso hit his majors-leading 10th homer, a two-run drive in the fifth that backed Joey Lucchesi's triumphant return to the majors nearly two years after Tommy John surgery, and New York beat San Francisco.

Lucchesi (1-0) struck out nine, walked two and allowed four hits over seven scoreless innings in his first appearance since June 18, 2021. The lefty became the first Mets pitcher to work into the seventh this season. Lucchesi underwent reconstructive elbow surgery on June 24, 2021, six days after his last big league appearance.



Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Drew Smyly lays on the ground after Chicago Cubs catcher Yan Gomes collided with him, preventing the throw to first base and ending his chance at a perfect game during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Friday, April 21, 2023, in Chicago.

Anthony DeSclafani (1-1) is winless in his last three appearances since April 3 and has never beaten the Mets in eight career starts.

RAYS 8, WHITE SOX 7

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Christian Bethancourt hit a leadoff homer in the ninth and Brandon Lowe followed with a walkoff two-run shot off Reynaldo López (0-2). Tampa Bay overcame a 7-4 deficit and improved to 11-0 at home.

Harold Ramírez had a two-run homer off Michael Kopech during a four-run first for the Rays, who matched the 2019 Seattle Mariners as the only teams since 1901 to homer in each of their first 20 games.

Kevin Kelly (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings for Tampa Bay, which is 4-3 since starting the season with a 13-game winning streak. Chicago

lost for the seventh time in nine games.

ASTROS 6, BRAVES 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Yordan Alvarez hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer with two outs in the ninth off A.J. Minter (0-1) in a matchup of the last two World Series champions.

Hector Neris (1-1) earned the win with a perfect eighth inning for the 2022 champions. Ryan Pressley pitched around a one-out walk in the ninth for his first save, striking out Ronald Acuña Jr. with a man on and retiring Matt Olson on a game-ending groundout.

Houston erased a 4-1 deficit in the seventh against Jesse Chavez, who had not allowed a run in 10 appearances this season. Yanier Diaz hit an RBI double and scored on Jake Meyers' single, and Mauricio Dubón followed with a run-scoring double.

BLUE JAYS 6, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Vladimir Guerrero Jr. put Toronto ahead in the first inning against Domingo Germán (1-2) with his 11th home run in the Bronx and Brandon Belt drove in four runs. Guerrero is batting .301 (37 for 123) in 32 games at Yankee Stadium.

Yusei Kikuchi (3-0) allowed one run and four hits in six innings and Erik Swanson, Trevor Richards and Yimi García finished a five-hitter.

ORIOLES 2, TIGERS 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Adam Frazier hit a run-scoring grounder in the bottom of the ninth inning off Jason Foley (0-1) to give Baltimore its fourth straight victory and eighth in 10 games.

With the Tigers down to their last strike in the ninth, Javier Báez hit a tying single off Félix Bautista (2-1), snapping a 34-inning scoreless streak by Baltimore pitchers.

PIRATES 4, REDS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Connor Joe went 3 for 3 with a walk to back Mitch Keller (2-0), who gave up two runs and four hits in six innings. Pittsburgh won its fifth straight and at 14-7 is off to its best start since 2002.

Cincinnati has lost four in a row and 12 of 17.

David Bednar finished the five-hitter for his seventh save. Shortstop Jose Barrero's error allowed Pittsburgh to break a 2-2 tie in the sixth against Derek Law (0-3).

PHILLIES 4, ROCKIES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Edmundo Sosa drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on a single misplayed by left fielder Jurickson Profar and Kyle Schwarber hit a tying solo homer.

Brad Hand (0-1) started the night by receiving his 2022 NL championship ring from the Phillies and ended it by taking the loss for the Rockies.

Seranthony Domínguez (1-

1) worked a scoreless eighth for the win and José Alvarado tossed a scoreless ninth for this third save.

RED SOX 5, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Alex Verdugo homered for the second straight game, a third-inning drive off Freddy Peralta (2-2). Verdugo also doubled as Boston stopped Milwaukee's four-game winning streak.

Pinch-hitter Rob Refsnyder tied the score 3-3 in the sixth with a bloop single and Jarren Duran followed with a liner that went off the glove of diving third baseman Owen Miller for a go-ahead single.

Nick Pivetta (1-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings, and Kenley Jansen retired the side in order in the ninth for his fifth save.

NATIONALS 3, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Joey Meneses hit his first homer of the season and Keibert Ruiz singled in the go-ahead run off Griffin Jax (1-2) in the eighth as Washington overcame a 2-0 deficit on a night with a game-time temperature of 37 degrees, coldest for a Nationals game.

Joey Gallo's solo homer was one of just five hits for the Twins, who have scored two or fewer runs in seven of their 20 games.

Erasmio Ramírez (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning, and Kyle Finnegan got his fourth save when José Miranda grounded into a game-ending double play.

ATHLETICS 5, RANGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Pinch-hitter Jordan Diaz hit his first big league homer, a ninth-inning drive off Will Smith (0-1) and Oakland rebounded from a 4-0 first-inning debut to stop a seven-game losing streak.

Zach Jackson (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth inning for the win, and Jeury Familia worked a scoreless ninth for his first save.

Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer for the second consecutive game for Texas, which had its four-game winning streak stopped.

MARINERS 5, CARDINALS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—George Kirby allowed two runs in six solid innings, Teoscar Hernández homered, doubled and scored three times, and Seattle topped St. Louis.

Seattle snapped a three-game losing streak. Kirby (2-1) retired 11 straight during one stretch and allowed three hits and struck out five. Paul Sewald pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Steven Matz (0-3) allowed four hits, four runs and struck out seven in 5 1/3 innings.

NFL suspends 5 players for violating gambling policy

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Three NFL players were suspended indefinitely Friday for betting on NFL games in the 2022 season, while two other players, including the 12th overall draft pick a year ago, received six-game suspensions for betting on non-NFL games at a league facility.

Detroit Lions wide receiver Quintez Cephus, Lions safety C.J. Moore and Washington Commanders defensive end Shaka Toney are sidelined for the entire 2023 season and may petition for reinstatement afterward.

Lions wide receivers Stanley Berryhill and Jameson Williams each received a six-game suspension, though they will be able to participate in offseason and preseason activities, including preseason games. Their suspensions will start at the final roster cutdown.

The NFL said that a "league

review uncovered no evidence indicating any inside information was used or that any game was compromised in any way."

Gambling incidents have been relatively rare for the NFL. Most recently, wide receiver Calvin Ridley was suspended for the entire 2022 season for gambling on NFL games; he was later traded from Atlanta to Jacksonville and was reinstated. In November 2019, Arizona Cardinals cornerback Josh Shaw was suspended for gambling on an NFL game; he has not played in the league since.

"I don't think it's a trend yet," said Chris Altruda, a senior analyst for Sports Handle. "I do think the league has to do a better job messaging, and I think the teams have to do a better job of relaying that message as well."

The Lions immediately released Cephus, who caught 37 passes in three seasons, and Moore, who started one game in four years.

Detroit executive vice president and general manager Brad Holmes said the two "exhibited decision-making that is not consistent with our organizational values and violates league rules."

Williams was the 12th overall pick in last year's draft but he played in just six games after returning from knee surgery. Alliance Sports, which represents Williams, said in a statement the player is "apologetic to the NFL, his teammates and the fans and city of Detroit." It also noted Williams' suspension was for a "technical rule regarding the actual location in which the online bet was placed — and which would otherwise be allowed by the NFL outside of the club's facility."

Berryhill played in four games without a catch in his only season. Holmes said the Lions will work with both Berryhill and Williams "to ensure they understand the severity of these violations and have clarity on the league rules moving

forward."

Toney started one game in two seasons with the Commanders, who said they have "cooperated fully with the NFL's investigation since receiving notice and support the league's findings and actions."

With the rise of sports betting across the U.S., some pro teams have a sportsbook in their stadiums—like the Washington Nationals (MLB) and the Phoenix Suns (NBA) as well as the NHL's Washington Capitals. Others, like the Arizona Cardinals, have a sportsbook on the grounds of the stadium and many fans bet on their phones while attending games. Sports betting ads also permeate breaks during NFL games.

The NFL, along with other pro leagues, this week formed the Coalition for Responsible Sports Betting Advertising, a group described as a voluntary alliance to control how consumers see advertising and to rein in "excessive" advertising.

SIS leads HS girls soccer with Chavez's goals

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Lady Geckos —

with leading scorer Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez—currently lead the girls high school 2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League as they won two games in a row at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Their first win came in the season opener last Tuesday against Marianas High School in a close 6-4 match, while they came off with the win against Saipan Southern High School last Thursday, 1-0.

CNMI women's national soccer team pool player and Saipan International School student-athlete Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez was an unstoppable force on the field as she scored all of her team's goals in both games.

With about four CNMI women's national soccer team pool players in the Dolphins' roster, Chavez and the Lady Geckos had their work cut out for them in their first match of the season.

But, Chavez and her merry crew of Geckos played with a level of intensity and focus that the opposition could not match



LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, right, tries to get away from Marianas High School's Tamia Kileleman-Hix during their season opener of the girls high school 2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

or catch up to.

It didn't take long for Chavez to find an opening and weakness in the Dolphin's defenses as she scored the first goal in the 12th minute after the Dolphin's Tamia Kileleman-Hix drew first blood in the fourth minute.

From there, Chavez completed the hat-trick in the 30th minute before the Dolphins could put another goal on the board for a 3-1 game. Finally, the Dolphins' Rizza Relucio scored in

the 34th and 39th minute for a 3-3 tie.

Chavez was well defended but even so, found gaps and with her speedy footwork, found the back of the net again in the 42nd minute to put the Geckos up by 1, 4-3. The Dolphins' Alyssa Angeles tied it up once again in the 44th minute, but another slick move by Chavez gave them back the advantage, 5-4.

The Dolphins could not find the net anymore as Chavez

made her sixth one in the 47th minute.

In their game against the Lady Manta Rays, Chavez made the first and only goal in

the 15th minute, for a 1-0 final score.

In the team with Chavez are Aubrey and Audrey Castro, Julie Chavez, Serin Chung, Erky

Clavin, Mimi Culp, Steph Kim, Parveen Ming, Libbie Tom, and Claire Park.

The final rounds are scheduled to start this Thursday, April 27, with the championships next Tuesday, May 2, at 4pm then at 5:30pm.

Lancherus reap second win in MS boys hoops

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



The Cha-Cha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus reaped their second win in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lancherus and the Hopwood Middle School Hilitais were evenly matched on the court, but the former came out on top in the end for a 22-17 win.

The game was intense, with both teams pushing themselves to their limits. It was a back-and-forth battle, with neither team willing to back down—and the Lancherus led by Petuel Albert—dominated the paint and kept the Hilitais on their toes.

Though the passing game

of the Hilitais were on point throughout the game, almost all the Hilitais were able to contribute to their team's final score. In contrast, the Lancherus relied on Albert who scored 15 of the team's points.

The end of the first half was a close one as the Lancherus was in the lead only by two, 9-7. The Hilitais led off the second half with multiple free throws by Hanz Ansus, followed by a 3-pointer from Twayne Kapwich.

However, the Lancherus were never far behind as Albert continued to swish the net. Then, they pulled into the lead as Liam Wilson was fouled, and was followed by Albert being fouled too.

The last points registered by the Hilitais were also free throws by John Champangpan-gan and James Enriquez, but they couldn't catch up to the Lancherus' five point lead before the time expired.

In other results that day, DanDan Middle School is still undefeated after shutting out

Grace Christian Academy in a lopsided 70-2 win; Saipan International School also has an unblemished record after defeating Tanapag Middle School, 66-13; Francisco M. Sablan Middle School beat Mount Carmel School, 35-21.

In the junior varsity games, Hopwood Middle School slipped past FMS in a close 28-26 game; and DMS defeated MCS, 41-7.

In the standings, DMS and SIS lead with five wins and no losses each; FMS has a 4-1 card; Agape Christian School are 3-1; COVS have two wins and three losses; MCS has two wins and one loss; TMS has one win and four losses; and GCA and HMS have yet to win.

COVMS 22 — Albert 15, Seman 4, Wilson 3.

HMS 17 — Champangpan-gan 6, Kapwich 3, and Ansus 3, Libante II 2, Camacho 2, Enriquez 1.

Scoring by halves: 9-7; 22-17.

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all," he said.

Race said it's a testament to the CNMI junior players that they trained among themselves when Race's Aces Tennis Academy wasn't running since June of last year.

"We had some free lessons on Saturdays and during the Christmas holidays and I was working with different kids

every day but you know, they really just got out there and practiced themselves. They're a very dedicated bunch without any coach there to tell them what to do," he said.

On the selection process on who ultimately gets to go to the NPRC, Race said it was very methodical and is culled from the results of NMITA's calendar of events throughout the season.

"The vast majority of the criteria is basically just what

you're ranking here is. Some kids who might have a lower ranking, because maybe they're doing so well in the upper level. They're not No. 1 on the 14s but they might be No. 1, 2, or 3 in the 16 in but their 14 ranking may not be that high. We have to take all circumstances. We try to just keep it as objective as possible. So that's why we made our ranking system where you have to go through it and it takes time to go through and do the rankings after every tournament. But that's just a way to make things fair for parents."

But that's just a way to make things fair for parents."

Race added that the lack of formal training because of the suspension of his Aces Tennis Academy coupled with the new schedule threw a curve ball in their preparations for the NPRC.

"I mean last year we did so well. And we'll just have to see how we do this year and you know, like I said we haven't had formal training for nine months. So we're trying to cram bad habits that were unfortunately

developed during that time. That's one thing that some of the kids who are practicing every day, they sort of get a bad habit and then it gets reinforced over that much time. So kind of trying to work out a few kinks and have everybody focus on a lot of fundamentals like footwork and making sure that we are serving so that we're not giving away a lot of points for free like on double faults."

Hopefully, he added the past several weeks after his academy

returned would've been enough to get his players up to speed.

"[We trained for] just the basics like focusing on just controlling the point, not trying to get crazy and trying to have winners but keep the other player running the ball around the court."

Race thanked Tan Holdings and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for their support as well as tournament sponsors White-Coconut Scanning and Bridge Capital LLC.

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said Kimura of his ward from Grace Christian Academy.

A rising star in Tsunami Saipan's constellation is 14-year-old Kouki Watanabe, who has emerged as the club's best swimmer in the breaststroke. During the time trial's 160m breaststroke, the MHS student

posted a time of 1:43.32.

"Tsunami Saipan's top 160m breaststroke swimmer is Jinnosuke Suzuki. Jinnosuke is a great breastroker and still holds the CNMI age group record, and he swam the breaststroke part in the medley relay in the last World Champs in Melbourne. However, Kouki already beat Jinnosuke's time and he was already 17 years old then. This is so amazing!" said Kimura.

Kimura said Justin Ma of GCA and Richard Zhao of Saipan Community School also gave good accounts of themselves during the time trials.

Kimura said the two 13-year-old boys marked their best times in every event.

"Justin's best event was the freestyle and he showed very high performance in all his events in that stroke."

Zhao's forte is the breast-

roke and Kimura said Zhao has never beaten Maria Batalones in any races in that stroke until the recent time trial.

"This time he finally won against Maria in all the breaststroke events (40m breaststroke kick and 40m, 80m, and 160m breaststroke swim). Maria is a CNMI national swimmer and a CNMI record-holder, so it's not easy for the younger Zhao to win

against her," said Kimura.

Leo Li also surprised the Tsunami Saipan coach during the time trials as the 7-year-old Garapan Elementary School student got a higher ranking than older swimmers.

"Especially in the breaststroke, he is a once-in-a-decade talent. I'm really looking forward to seeing how Leo's breaststroke evolves in the future."

Kimura saved his best praise

for two of Tsunami Saipan's youngest swimmers in 6-year-olds Lucy Shin from Brilliant Star School and Juwon Park of GCA.

"Despite being the youngest, both of them showed their best performance. Lucy in particular got a higher rank than many of our older members. As the next generation that follows Leo, I want them to continue to do their best," said Kimura.

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14:10.60.

The other event was the boys and girls 800m, with the boys competition led by Cody Shimizu from Marianas High School at 2:13.94; Caleb Cui from ACS was second at 2:14.83; and Miles Linden from GCA was third at 2:25.79.

In the girls race, Eunice Xu was first again with a time of

2:47.12; Summer Manahane from Saipan Southern High School was second at 3:03.08; and third was Emma Pang at 3:09.36.

The shortest sprint event of the day was the boys and girls 200m. Augustin Palacios from THS was first at 25.30; second was Caleb Cui at 25.58; and third was Bonny Gonzales from THS at 28.16 seconds.

Heat 2 was led by Cody Shimizu with 24.97; second was

Jasper Hall from GCA at 25.25; and third was Justice Aldan from THS at 26.11 seconds.

Heat 3 Top 2 were Matthew Sarmiento from THS at 24.70 and Kobe Imperial from SSHS at 28.85.

The girls' Top 3 was Edwardina Flamar from Kagan High School at 30.54; Priscilla Cheng from ACS at 32.06; and Ha'ani Passi from SSHS at 32.68.

Heat 2 Top 4 was Casey Cruz

from SSHS at 28.35; Sunny Wang at 32.71; THS' Mary Manuel at 34.27; and teammate Serenity Guzman at 37.27.

Heat 3 was dominated by Filomenaleonisa Iakopo from SIS at 28.45; second was Tsubakiko Joab from KHS at 32.27; and Denise Miguel was third at 33.06.

In the 18U boys shot put event, the Stallions dominated the Top 3. Matua San Nicolas was first with 12.37m;

Keith Nabors was second with 10.25m; and Mefi Norech was third at 9.93m.

In the 18U girls shot put, Ruth Zhang from ACS topped it at 8.10m; second was Karisse Ong from THS at 6.88m; and Jasmine John from SSHS was third with 6.85m.

The last field event was the discus throw, with the 18U boys dominated by the Stallions once again. Matua San Nicolas was first at 30.05m; second

was Keith Nabors at 28.99m; and third was Marcial Patio at 26.78m.

For the girls discus throw, Kina Rangamar from MHS threw the farthest at 17.15m; second was Abbygaile Ong from THS at 16.94m; and third was teammate Julia Medicicelo at 16.58.

Results of the last middle school qualifiers will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune*.



Butler scores 30,
Heat top Giannis-
less Bucks, 121-99

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SIS leads HS girls
soccer with Chavez's
goals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMITA sends 19 players to NPRC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association has sent 19 players to the North Pacific Regional Championships that starts today, April 24, until April 29 in Guam.



The 2023 NMI National Junior Tennis Team is made up of boys 16U's June Yu, Henry Choi, and Simon Tang, girls 16U's Hoo Wang, Irin Chung, and Savita Sikkell, boys 14U's Nason Wessel, Yutaka Kadokura, Siwoo Lee, and Taher Shakir, girls 14U's Anne Lee, Hannah Chae, and Lina Tsukagoshi, boys 12U's Ryan Choi, Michael Jeon, and Daniel Kang, and girls 12U's Stella Choi, Vivian Chung, and Jenna Pascual.

"Congratulations to these young athletes and good luck as they play in the NPRC. They will compete to qualify for the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, which will be played in Fiji in June," said NMITA president and CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race.

Ian Chae was part of the original 20-player contingent but had to pull out on account of injury.

"He broke his arm a week ago and isn't with us. He re-



JUSAM JAE

The CNMI National Junior Tennis Team for the 2023 Northern Pacific Regional Championships poses at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before leaving for Guam yesterday morning.

ally trained hard and was so excited," said Race.

The many time Northern Marianas Sports Association Coach of the Year awardee and NMSA Fall of Fame inductee admitted the NPRC being moved to an earlier date definitely complicated things.

"We just have a short time to prepare for the regional championships. That competition has moved from the middle of June to the end of April. So it's almost two months earlier. That just allowed us about six weeks to prepare. But we're very lucky because you know, these kids are very dedicated during the nine months that I barely worked with them at

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PBs across the board in Tsunami Saipan time trials

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers are priming up for next month's selection trials for the 2023 FINA World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan by resetting their personal bests in a recent time trial.

National swimmer Isaiah Aleksenko reset his personal bests in all his swims—the 40m and 80m butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle, and 160m freestyle.

In becoming the best swimmer in the time trials, the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers pose for a group photo in the pool after their recent time trial.

Marianas High School student beat teammate Jinnosuke Suzuki's top time of 1:22.14 in the 160m freestyle by swimming in 1:18.66.

"Jinnosuke is the CNMI national record holder in the 200m freestyle and he set that

mark last year in the FINA World Championships in Melbourne, Australia. To beat his time means that Isaiah's 200m freestyle level has improved considerably," said Tsunami Saipan coach

Hiroyuki Kimura.

Kean Pajarillaga also impressed in the time trial by posting PBs in the 40m and 80m butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle, and 160m freestyle and backstroke.

"Finally, Kean beat Juhn Teno-rio's top time of 1:30.51 in the 200m backstroke. Kean marked 1:29.36 in this time trial. It's the first time for Kean to closely match Juhn's time,"

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Torchbearers blaze through 3,000m in last HS qualifiers

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The Agape Christian School Torchbearers torched their competition in the last high school 18U 3,000m qualifiers in the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eunice Xu from Agape Christian School, right, is first place in the 18U girls 3,000m event in the last high school qualifiers of the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

In the 18U boys competition, Samuel Zhu came in first with a time of 11:25.71; second was Takeru Jim from Grace Christian Academy at 11:51.64; and Jake Moncada of Tinian High School 12:23.81

The 18U girls 3,000m was a close one with Eunice Xu coming in first at 12:43.50; second was Tiana Cabrera from Saipan International School at 12:56.26; and third was ACS' Emma Pang at

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